House Prices Regression Task

Matthew Loh

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 import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split, GridSearchCV
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler, LabelEncoder
from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error, mean_absolute_error, r2_score
from sklearn.linear model import LinearRegression, Ridge, Lasso, ElasticNet
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor
import lightgbm as lgb
import xgboost as xgb
import catboost as cbt
np.random.seed(42)
```

Data Loading and Exploratory Data Analysis

```
# Load the data
train = pd.read_csv('train.csv')
test = pd.read_csv('test.csv')
# Display basic information about the dataset
print(train.info())
# Display summary statistics
print(train.describe())
# Plot distribution of target variable
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
sns.histplot(train['SalePrice'], kde=True)
plt.title('Distribution of Sale Prices')
plt.show()
# Identify numeric columns
numeric_columns = train.select_dtypes(include=[np.number]).columns
# Correlation matrix of numerical features
corr matrix = train[numeric columns].corr()
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 10))
sns.heatmap(corr_matrix, cmap='coolwarm', annot=False)
plt.title('Correlation Matrix of Numerical Features')
plt.show()
# Top 10 features correlated with SalePrice
top_corr = corr_matrix['SalePrice'].sort_values(ascending=False).head(11)
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
sns.barplot(x=top_corr.index[1:], y=top_corr.values[1:])
plt.title('Top 10 Features Correlated with SalePrice')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
# Scatter plot of top correlated feature vs SalePrice
top_feature = top_corr.index[1]
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
sns.scatterplot(x=train[top_feature], y=train['SalePrice'])
plt.title(f'{top_feature} vs SalePrice')
plt.show()
```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 1460 entries, 0 to 1459
Data columns (total 81 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	Id	1460 non-null	int64
1	MSSubClass	1460 non-null	int64
2	MSZoning	1460 non-null	object
3	LotFrontage	1201 non-null	float64
4	LotArea	1460 non-null	int64
5	Street	1460 non-null	object
6	Alley	91 non-null	object
7	LotShape	1460 non-null	object
8	${\tt LandContour}$	1460 non-null	object
9	Utilities	1460 non-null	object
10	LotConfig	1460 non-null	object
11	LandSlope	1460 non-null	object
12	Neighborhood	1460 non-null	object
13	Condition1	1460 non-null	object
14	Condition2	1460 non-null	object
15	BldgType	1460 non-null	object
16	HouseStyle	1460 non-null	object
17	OverallQual	1460 non-null	int64
18	OverallCond	1460 non-null	int64
19	YearBuilt	1460 non-null	int64
20	${\tt YearRemodAdd}$	1460 non-null	int64
21	RoofStyle	1460 non-null	object
22	RoofMatl	1460 non-null	object
23	Exterior1st	1460 non-null	object
24	Exterior2nd	1460 non-null	object
25	${ t MasVnrType}$	588 non-null	object
26	${ t MasVnrArea}$	1452 non-null	float64
27	ExterQual	1460 non-null	object
28	ExterCond	1460 non-null	object
29	Foundation	1460 non-null	object
30	BsmtQual	1423 non-null	object
31	BsmtCond	1423 non-null	object
32	BsmtExposure	1422 non-null	object
33	${\tt BsmtFinType1}$	1423 non-null	object
34	BsmtFinSF1	1460 non-null	int64
35	BsmtFinType2	1422 non-null	object
36	BsmtFinSF2	1460 non-null	int64
37	${ t BsmtUnfSF}$	1460 non-null	int64

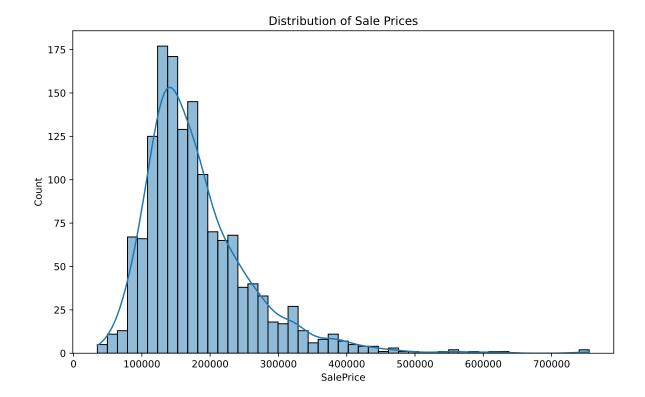
38	TotalBsmtSF	1460 non-null	int64
39	Heating	1460 non-null	object
40	${\tt HeatingQC}$	1460 non-null	object
41	CentralAir	1460 non-null	object
42	Electrical	1459 non-null	object
43	1stFlrSF	1460 non-null	int64
44	2ndFlrSF	1460 non-null	int64
45	${\tt LowQualFinSF}$	1460 non-null	int64
46	GrLivArea	1460 non-null	int64
47	${\tt BsmtFullBath}$	1460 non-null	int64
48	${\tt BsmtHalfBath}$	1460 non-null	int64
49	FullBath	1460 non-null	int64
50	HalfBath	1460 non-null	int64
51	BedroomAbvGr	1460 non-null	int64
52	KitchenAbvGr	1460 non-null	int64
53	KitchenQual	1460 non-null	object
54	TotRmsAbvGrd	1460 non-null	int64
55	Functional	1460 non-null	object
56	Fireplaces	1460 non-null	int64
57	FireplaceQu	770 non-null	object
58	GarageType	1379 non-null	object
59	GarageYrBlt	1379 non-null	float64
60	GarageFinish	1379 non-null	object
61	GarageCars	1460 non-null	int64
62	GarageArea	1460 non-null	int64
63	GarageQual	1379 non-null	object
64	GarageCond	1379 non-null	object
65	PavedDrive	1460 non-null	object
66	WoodDeckSF	1460 non-null	int64
67	OpenPorchSF	1460 non-null	int64
68	EnclosedPorch	1460 non-null	int64
69	3SsnPorch	1460 non-null	int64
70	ScreenPorch	1460 non-null	int64
71	PoolArea	1460 non-null	int64
72	PoolQC	7 non-null	object
73	Fence	281 non-null	object
74	MiscFeature	54 non-null	object
75	MiscVal	1460 non-null	int64
76	MoSold	1460 non-null	int64
77	YrSold	1460 non-null	int64
78	SaleType	1460 non-null	object
79	SaleCondition	1460 non-null	object
80	SalePrice	1460 non-null	int64

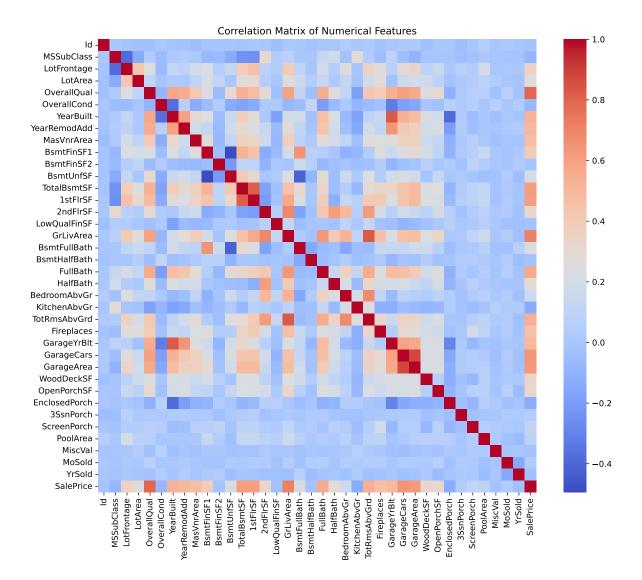
dtypes: float64(3), int64(35), object(43)

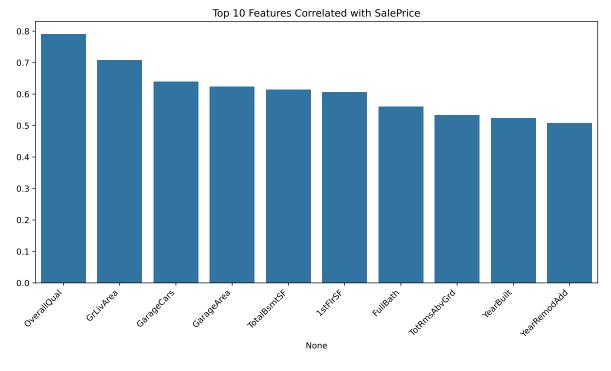
memory usage: 924.0+ KB

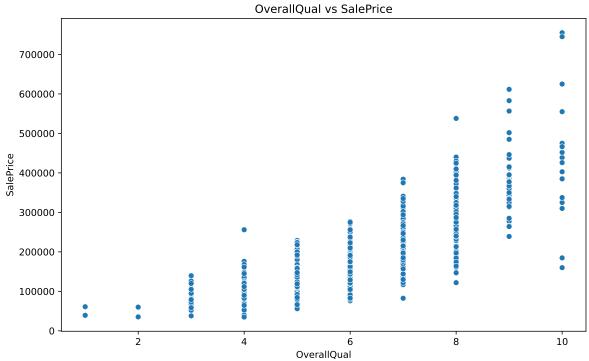
None

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	Id	MSSubClass	LotFrontage	LotArea	OverallQual	\	
count	1460.000000	1460.000000	1201.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000		
mean	730.500000	56.897260	70.049958	10516.828082	6.099315		
std	421.610009	42.300571	24.284752	9981.264932	1.382997		
min	1.000000	20.000000	21.000000	1300.000000	1.000000		
25%	365.750000	20.000000	59.000000	7553.500000	5.000000		
50%	730.500000	50.000000	69.000000	9478.500000	6.000000		
75%	1095.250000	70.000000	80.000000	11601.500000	7.000000		
max	1460.000000	190.000000	313.000000	215245.000000	10.000000		
	OverallCond	YearBuilt	YearRemodAdd	MasVnrArea	BsmtFinSF1		\
count	1460.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000	1452.000000	1460.000000		
mean	5.575342	1971.267808	1984.865753	103.685262	443.639726		
std	1.112799	30.202904	20.645407	181.066207	456.098091		
min	1.000000	1872.000000	1950.000000	0.000000	0.000000		
25%	5.000000	1954.000000	1967.000000	0.000000	0.000000		
50%	5.000000	1973.000000	1994.000000	0.000000	383.500000		
75%	6.000000	2000.000000	2004.000000	166.000000	712.250000		
max	9.000000	2010.000000	2010.000000	1600.000000	5644.000000		
	WoodDeckSF	OpenPorchSF	EnclosedPorch	3SsnPorch	ScreenPorch	\	
count	1460.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000		
mean	94.244521	46.660274	21.954110	3.409589	15.060959		
std	125.338794	66.256028	61.119149	29.317331	55.757415		
min	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000		
25%	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000		
50%	0.000000	25.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000		
75%	168.000000	68.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000		
max	857.000000	547.000000	552.000000	508.000000	480.000000		
	PoolArea	MiscVal	MoSold	YrSold	SalePrice		
count	1460.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000	1460.000000		
mean	2.758904	43.489041	6.321918	2007.815753	180921.195890		
std	40.177307	496.123024	2.703626	1.328095	79442.502883		
min	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000	2006.000000	34900.000000		
25%	0.000000	0.000000	5.000000	2007.000000	129975.000000		
50%	0.000000	0.000000	6.000000	2008.000000	163000.000000		
75%	0.000000	0.000000	8.000000	2009.000000	214000.000000		
max	738.000000	15500.000000	12.000000	2010.000000	755000.000000		









Data Preprocessing

```
def preprocess_data(df):
    # Handle missing values
    for col in df.columns:
        if df[col].dtype != 'object':
            df[col].fillna(df[col].median(), inplace=True)
            df[col].fillna(df[col].mode()[0], inplace=True)
    # Encode categorical variables
    le = LabelEncoder()
    for col in df.select_dtypes(include=['object']).columns:
        df[col] = le.fit_transform(df[col].astype(str))
    return df
# Preprocess train and test data
X = preprocess_data(train.drop('SalePrice', axis=1))
y = np.log1p(train['SalePrice']) # Log transform the target variable
test_processed = preprocess_data(test)
# Apply StandardScaler
scaler = StandardScaler()
X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X)
test_processed_scaled = scaler.transform(test_processed)
print("Processed data shape:", X.shape)
```

Processed data shape: (1460, 80)

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Model Training and Evaluation

```
train_mse = mean_squared_error(y_train, train_pred)
    train_rmse = np.sqrt(train_mse)
    train_mae = mean_absolute_error(y_train, train_pred)
    train_r2 = r2_score(y_train, train_pred)
    val_mse = mean_squared_error(y_val, val_pred)
   val rmse = np.sqrt(val mse)
    val_mae = mean_absolute_error(y_val, val_pred)
    val_r2 = r2_score(y_val, val_pred)
    print(f"{model_name} Results:")
    print(f"Train RMSE: {train_rmse:.4f}")
    print(f"Train MAE: {train_mae:.4f}")
   print(f"Train R2 Score: {train_r2:.4f}")
   print(f"Validation RMSE: {val_rmse:.4f}")
    print(f"Validation MAE: {val_mae:.4f}")
   print(f"Validation R2 Score: {val_r2:.4f}")
   print("\n")
    return model, (y train, train pred, y val, val pred)
# Linear models
linear_models = {
    "Linear Regression": LinearRegression(),
    "Ridge": Ridge(),
    "Lasso": Lasso(),
    "ElasticNet": ElasticNet()
}
linear_results = {}
for name, model in linear_models.items():
    linear results[name] = train and evaluate(
        model, X_scaled, y, test_processed_scaled, name)
# Advanced models
rf_model = RandomForestRegressor(random_state=42)
rf_trained, rf_results = train_and_evaluate(
    rf_model, X, y, test_processed, "Random Forest")
lgb_model = lgb.LGBMRegressor(random_state=42)
lgb_trained, lgb_results = train_and_evaluate(
```

```
lgb_model, X, y, test_processed, "LightGBM")

xgb_model = xgb.XGBRegressor(random_state=42)

xgb_trained, xgb_results = train_and_evaluate(
    xgb_model, X, y, test_processed, "XGBoost")

cbt_model = cbt.CatBoostRegressor(random_state=42, verbose=False)

cbt_trained, cbt_results = train_and_evaluate(
    cbt_model, X, y, test_processed, "CatBoost")
```

Linear Regression Results:

Train RMSE: 0.1306
Train MAE: 0.0894
Train R2 Score: 0.8881
Validation RMSE: 0.1553
Validation MAE: 0.1061

Validation R2 Score: 0.8708

Ridge Results: Train RMSE: 0.1306

Train MAE: 0.0894
Train R2 Score: 0.8881
Validation RMSE: 0.1553

Validation MAE: 0.1061

Validation R2 Score: 0.8708

Lasso Results:

Train RMSE: 0.3904
Train MAE: 0.3034

Train R2 Score: 0.0000 Validation RMSE: 0.4332 Validation MAE: 0.3371

Validation R2 Score: -0.0058

ElasticNet Results: Train RMSE: 0.3904 Train MAE: 0.3034

Train R2 Score: 0.0000 Validation RMSE: 0.4332

Validation MAE: 0.3371

Validation R2 Score: -0.0058

Random Forest Results: Train RMSE: 0.0535 Train MAE: 0.0361 Train R2 Score: 0.9812

Train R2 Score: 0.9812 Validation RMSE: 0.1458 Validation MAE: 0.0986

Validation R2 Score: 0.8861

[LightGBM] [Info] Auto-choosing row-wise multi-threading, the overhead of testing was 0.00033 You can set `force_row_wise=true` to remove the overhead.

And if memory is not enough, you can set `force_col_wise=true`.

[LightGBM] [Info] Total Bins 3364

[LightGBM] [Info] Number of data points in the train set: 1168, number of used features: 73

[LightGBM] [Info] Start training from score 12.030658

LightGBM Results: Train RMSE: 0.0420 Train MAE: 0.0256

Train R2 Score: 0.9884 Validation RMSE: 0.1413 Validation MAE: 0.0934

Validation R2 Score: 0.8930

XGBoost Results: Train RMSE: 0.0050

Train MAE: 0.0035

Train R2 Score: 0.9998 Validation RMSE: 0.1514 Validation MAE: 0.1022

Validation R2 Score: 0.8772

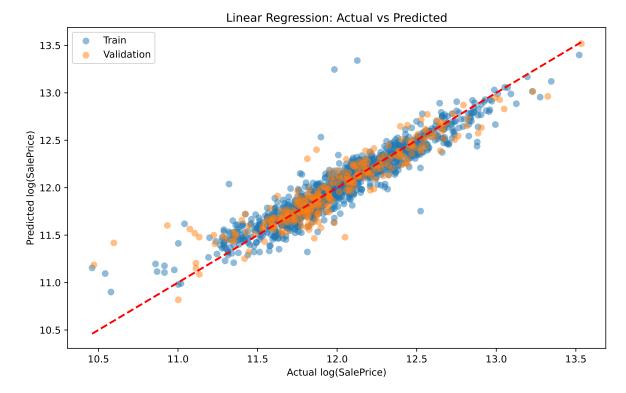
CatBoost Results: Train RMSE: 0.0322

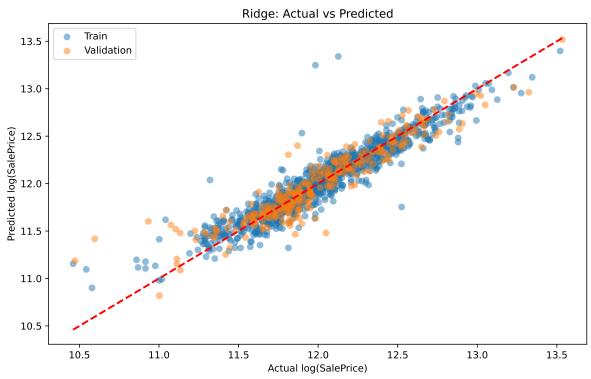
Train MAE: 0.0246

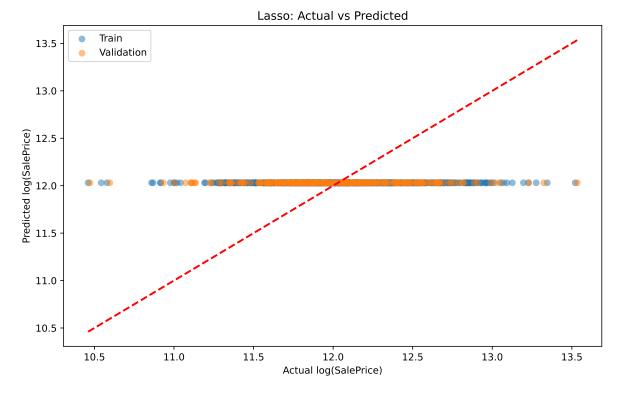
Train R2 Score: 0.9932 Validation RMSE: 0.1329 Validation MAE: 0.0866

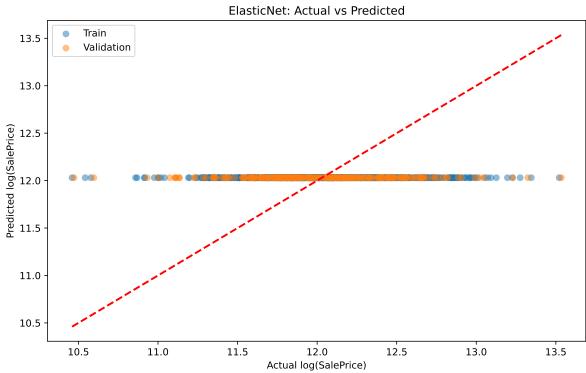
Model Performance Visualization

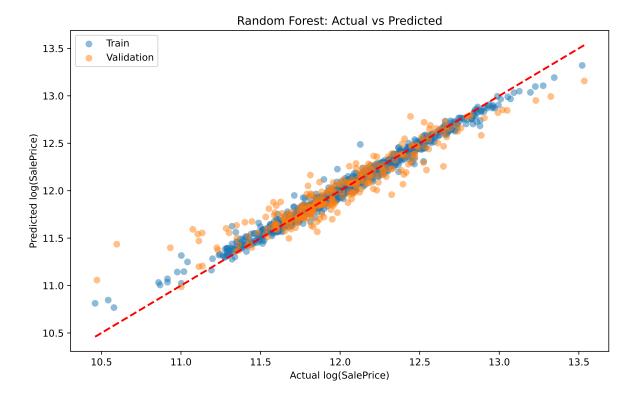
```
def plot_actual_vs_predicted(results, model_name):
   y_train, train_pred, y_val, val_pred = results
   plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
   plt.scatter(y_train, train_pred, alpha=0.5, label='Train')
   plt.scatter(y_val, val_pred, alpha=0.5, label='Validation')
   plt.plot([y.min(), y.max()], [y.min(), y.max()], 'r--', lw=2)
   plt.xlabel('Actual log(SalePrice)')
   plt.ylabel('Predicted log(SalePrice)')
   plt.title(f'{model_name}: Actual vs Predicted')
   plt.legend()
   plt.show()
# Plot for each model
for name, (model, results) in linear_results.items():
    plot_actual_vs_predicted(results, name)
plot_actual_vs_predicted(rf_results, "Random Forest")
plot_actual_vs_predicted(lgb_results, "LightGBM")
plot_actual_vs_predicted(xgb_results, "XGBoost")
plot_actual_vs_predicted(cbt_results, "CatBoost")
```

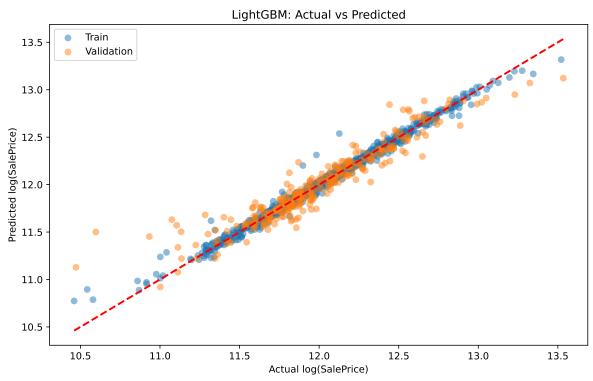


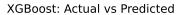


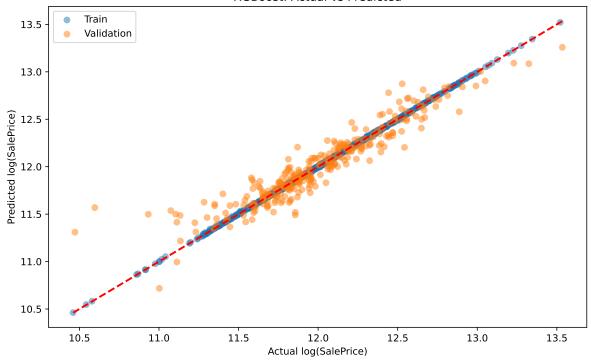




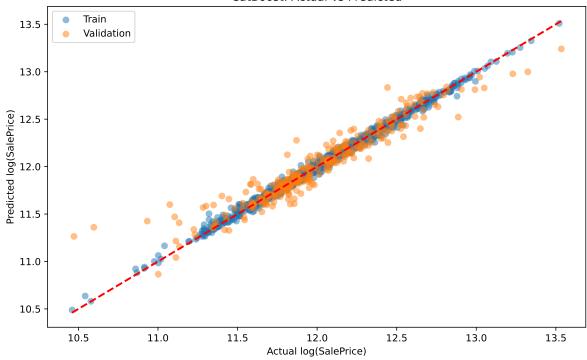






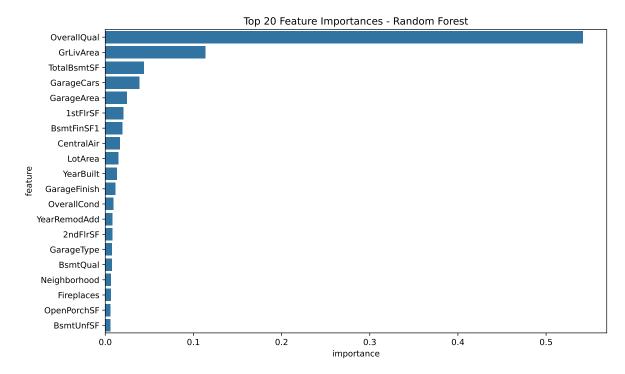


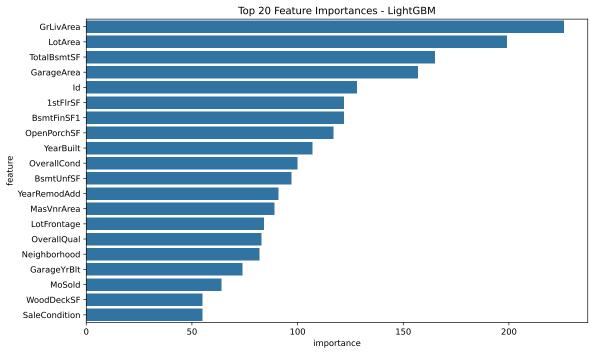
CatBoost: Actual vs Predicted

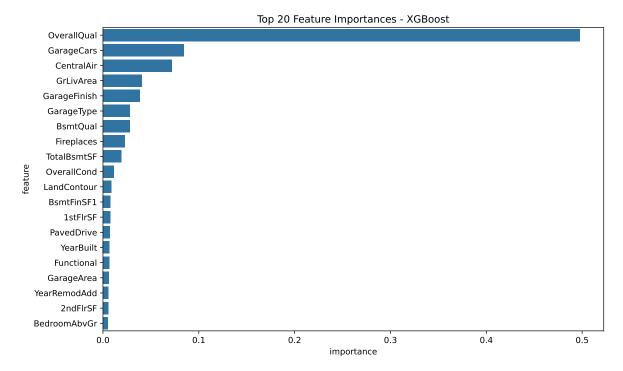


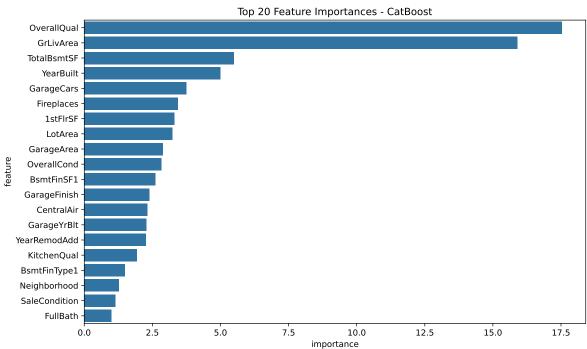
Feature Importance

```
def plot_feature_importance(model, X, model_name):
    if hasattr(model, 'feature_importances_'):
        importances = model.feature_importances_
    elif hasattr(model, 'feature_importance'):
        importances = model.feature_importance()
    else:
        print(f"Feature importance not available for {model_name}")
        return
    feature_imp = pd.DataFrame(
        {'feature': X.columns, 'importance': importances})
    feature_imp = feature_imp.sort_values(
        'importance', ascending=False).head(20)
    plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
    sns.barplot(x='importance', y='feature', data=feature_imp)
    plt.title(f'Top 20 Feature Importances - {model_name}')
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
plot_feature_importance(rf_trained, X, "Random Forest")
plot_feature_importance(lgb_trained, X, "LightGBM")
plot_feature_importance(xgb_trained, X, "XGBoost")
plot_feature_importance(cbt_trained, X, "CatBoost")
```









Hyperparameter Tuning

```
def tune_hyperparameters(model, param_grid, X, y, model_name):
    grid_search = GridSearchCV(estimator=model, param_grid=param_grid,
                               cv=5, scoring='neg_mean_squared_error', verbose=1, n_jobs=-1)
    grid_search.fit(X, y)
    print(f"Best parameters for {model_name}:")
    print(grid_search.best_params_)
    print(f"Best RMSE: {np.sqrt(-grid_search.best_score_):.4f}")
    print("\n")
    return grid_search.best_estimator_
# Random Forest hyperparameter tuning
rf_param_grid = {
    'n_estimators': [100, 200],
    'max_depth': [None, 10],
    'min_samples_split': [2, 5]
}
rf_tuned = tune_hyperparameters(RandomForestRegressor(
    random_state=42), rf_param_grid, X, y, "Random Forest")
# LightGBM hyperparameter tuning
lgb_param_grid = {
    'num_leaves': [31, 127],
    'learning_rate': [0.01, 0.1],
    'n_estimators': [100, 200]
lgb_tuned = tune_hyperparameters(lgb.LGBMRegressor(
    random_state=42), lgb_param_grid, X, y, "LightGBM")
# XGBoost hyperparameter tuning
xgb_param_grid = {
    'max_depth': [3, 6],
    'learning_rate': [0.01, 0.1],
    'n_estimators': [100, 200]
xgb_tuned = tune_hyperparameters(xgb.XGBRegressor(
    random_state=42), xgb_param_grid, X, y, "XGBoost")
```

```
# CatBoost hyperparameter tuning
cbt_param_grid = {
    'depth': [6, 8],
    'learning_rate': [0.01, 0.1],
    'iterations': [100, 200]
}
cbt_tuned = tune_hyperparameters(cbt.CatBoostRegressor(
    random_state=42, verbose=False), cbt_param_grid, X, y, "CatBoost")
Fitting 5 folds for each of 8 candidates, totalling 40 fits
Best parameters for Random Forest:
{'max_depth': None, 'min_samples_split': 5, 'n_estimators': 200}
Best RMSE: 0.1423
Fitting 5 folds for each of 8 candidates, totalling 40 fits
[LightGBM] [Info] Auto-choosing col-wise multi-threading, the overhead of testing was 0.0010
You can set `force_col_wise=true` to remove the overhead.
[LightGBM] [Info] Total Bins 3625
[LightGBM] [Info] Number of data points in the train set: 1460, number of used features: 74
[LightGBM] [Info] Start training from score 12.024057
[LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf
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[LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf
Best parameters for LightGBM:
{'learning_rate': 0.1, 'n_estimators': 100, 'num_leaves': 127}
Best RMSE: 0.1338
```

Fitting 5 folds for each of 8 candidates, totalling 40 fits Best parameters for XGBoost:

```
{'learning_rate': 0.1, 'max_depth': 3, 'n_estimators': 200}
Best RMSE: 0.1271

Fitting 5 folds for each of 8 candidates, totalling 40 fits
Best parameters for CatBoost:
{'depth': 6, 'iterations': 200, 'learning_rate': 0.1}
Best RMSE: 0.1248
```

Final Model Evaluation

```
print("Final Model Evaluation:")
rf_final, rf_final_results = train_and_evaluate(rf_tuned, X, y, test_processed, "Random Forelgb_final, lgb_final_results = train_and_evaluate(lgb_tuned, X, y, test_processed, "LightGBM xgb_final, xgb_final_results = train_and_evaluate(xgb_tuned, X, y, test_processed, "XGBoost cbt_final, cbt_final_results = train_and_evaluate(cbt_tuned, X, y, test_processed, "CatBoost # Plot final model performances
plot_actual_vs_predicted(rf_final_results, "Random Forest (Tuned)")
plot_actual_vs_predicted(lgb_final_results, "LightGBM (Tuned)")
plot_actual_vs_predicted(xgb_final_results, "XGBoost (Tuned)")
plot_actual_vs_predicted(cbt_final_results, "CatBoost (Tuned)")
```

Final Model Evaluation:

Random Forest (Tuned) Results:

Train RMSE: 0.0597
Train MAE: 0.0395

Train R2 Score: 0.9766

Validation RMSE: 0.1463

Validation MAE: 0.0984

Validation R2 Score: 0.8853

[LightGBM] [Info] Auto-choosing col-wise multi-threading, the overhead of testing was 0.0008 You can set `force_col_wise=true` to remove the overhead.

[LightGBM] [Info] Total Bins 3364

[LightGBM] [Info] Number of data points in the train set: 1168, number of used features: 73

[LightGBM] [Info] Start training from score 12.030658

[LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf

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[LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf [LightGBM] [Warning] No further splits with positive gain, best gain: -inf

Train RMSE: 0.0381

Train MAE: 0.0192
Train R2 Score: 0.9905
Validation RMSE: 0.1410
Validation R2 Score: 0.8935

XGBoost (Tuned) Results:

Train RMSE: 0.0622
Train MAE: 0.0456
Train R2 Score: 0.9746
Validation RMSE: 0.1372
Validation MAE: 0.0919

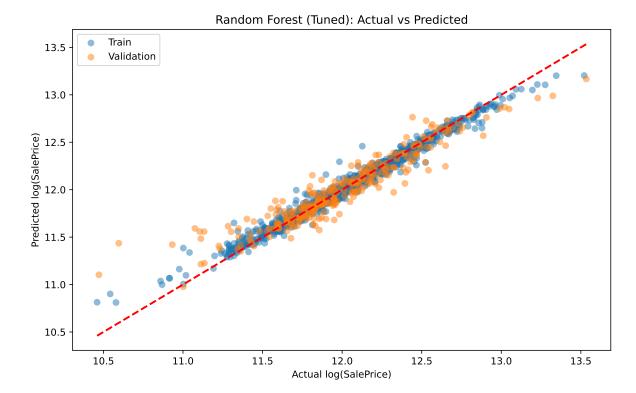
Validation R2 Score: 0.8991

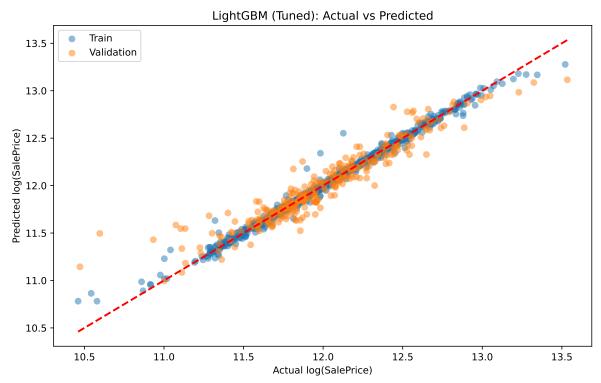
CatBoost (Tuned) Results:

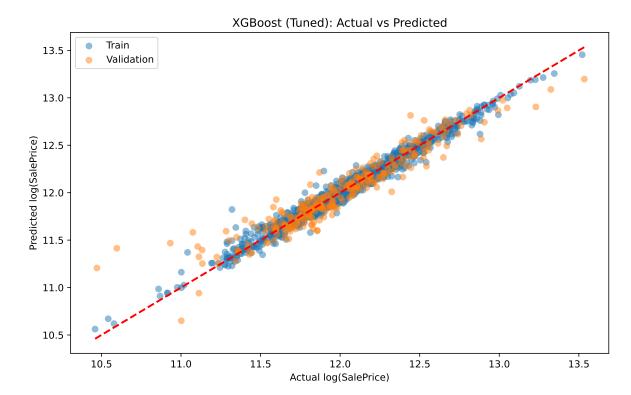
Train RMSE: 0.0606 Train MAE: 0.0450

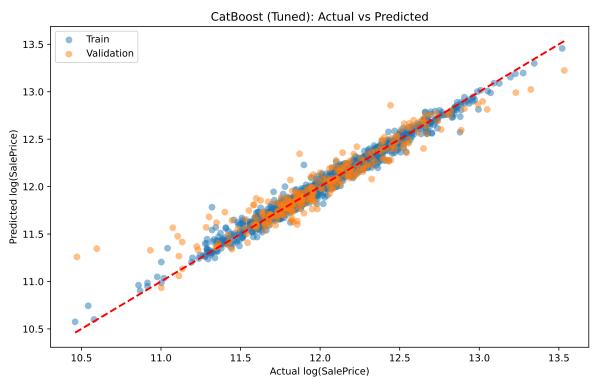
Train R2 Score: 0.9759
Validation RMSE: 0.1334
Validation MAE: 0.0871

Validation R2 Score: 0.9047



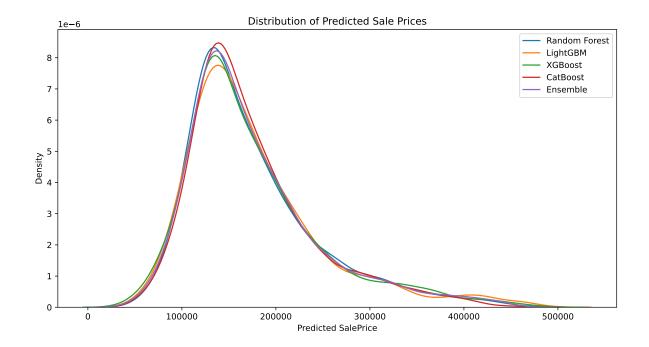






Predictions on Test Data

```
def make_predictions(model, test_data):
   predictions = model.predict(test data)
    return np.expm1(predictions) # Inverse log transform
rf_predictions = make_predictions(rf_final, test_processed)
lgb_predictions = make_predictions(lgb_final, test_processed)
xgb_predictions = make_predictions(xgb_final, test_processed)
cbt_predictions = make_predictions(cbt_final, test_processed)
# Ensemble predictions (simple average)
ensemble_predictions = (rf_predictions + lgb_predictions +
                        xgb_predictions + cbt_predictions) / 4
# Plot distribution of predictions
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6))
sns.kdeplot(rf predictions, label='Random Forest')
sns.kdeplot(lgb_predictions, label='LightGBM')
sns.kdeplot(xgb_predictions, label='XGBoost')
sns.kdeplot(cbt_predictions, label='CatBoost')
sns.kdeplot(ensemble_predictions, label='Ensemble')
plt.xlabel('Predicted SalePrice')
plt.ylabel('Density')
plt.title('Distribution of Predicted Sale Prices')
plt.legend()
plt.show()
submission = pd.DataFrame(
    {'Id': test['Id'], 'SalePrice': ensemble_predictions})
submission.to_csv('submission.csv', index=False)
print(submission.head())
```



	Id	SalePrice
0	1461	123910.870883
1	1462	155375.069029
2	1463	179525.040007
3	1464	182799.167707
4	1465	193326 665093

Conclusion

This notebook implements a comprehensive approach to the House Prices regression task, including:

- 1. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) to understand the dataset
- 2. Data preprocessing, including handling missing values and encoding categorical variables
- 3. Implementation of both basic (linear) and advanced (tree-based) regression models
- 4. Visualization of model performance and feature importance
- 5. Hyperparameter tuning to optimize model performance
- 6. Final model evaluation and ensemble prediction

Key observations: 1. The log transformation of the target variable (SalePrice) helped to handle its skewed distribution. 2. Advanced models (Random Forest, LightGBM, XGBoost, CatBoost) generally outperformed linear models. 3. Feature importance analysis revealed key predictors of house prices, which align with domain knowledge. 4. Hyperparameter tuning

improved the performance of all models. 5. The ensemble of tuned models provides a robust final prediction.

Areas for further improvement: 1. More extensive feature engineering, such as creating interaction terms or domain-specific features. 2. Experimenting with more advanced ensemble methods, such as stacking. 3. Deeper analysis of residuals to identify patterns in prediction errors and potential outliers. 4. Consideration of model interpretability for stakeholder communication.