Assignment 2: Regression Task with evaluation methods

Objective:

Train a regression model on a real-world dataset, emphasizing both prediction accuracy and interpretability.

Dataset:

Use the <u>Boston Housing dataset</u> from the UCI repository. This dataset measures various factors about houses in Boston suburbs and aims to predict the median value of owner-occupied homes.

Data Exploration & Preprocessing:

- Load the dataset.
- Handle missing values if any.
- Visualize the distribution of the target variable (MEDV Median value of homes).
- Explore relationships between predictors and the target variable using scatter plots or correlation matrix.

Data Splitting:

Divide the dataset into a training set (70%) and a test set (30%).

Model Selection & Training:

- Choose a regression algorithm of your choice (e.g., Linear Regression, Decision Trees, SVM regression, etc.).
- Train the model using the training data.

Model Evaluation:

- Use the test set to evaluate the model.
- Calculate the following evaluation metrics on the test set:
 - Mean Absolute Error (MAE)
 - Mean Squared Error (MSE)
 - Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)
 - R-squared (Coefficient of Determination)
 - Adjusted R-squared

Feature Importance:

- Depending on the chosen model, determine the importance of each feature.
- Discuss the significance of each feature in predicting the target variable.

Improvement (Bonus):

- Apply at least one technique to improve the model's performance, such as:
 - Feature engineering.
 - Polynomial regression.
 - Regularization techniques (L1/L2).
- Re-evaluate the model using the metrics and compare with the initial model.

Submission Guidelines:

- Submit a Jupyter Notebook or a Python script containing all the code used for the assignment.
- The code should be well-commented to explain your reasoning at each step.
- Include visualizations for data exploration, feature importance, and results.
- A report (1-2 pages) summarizing your findings, the model's performance metrics, and any conclusions drawn from the exercise.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 1. Data Preprocessing: Clean handling and transformation of data.
- 2. Implementation: Correctness and clarity of code.
- 3. Evaluation: Proper and correct computation of metrics.
- 4. Interpretation: Insight into feature importance and model performance.
- 5. Improvement: Effectiveness and clarity of the improvement technique.

By the end of this assignment, you should have a solid understanding of regression tasks, the intricacies of feature interactions, and the significance of model interpretability.