

Practicum CCheck

2025-06-22

```
library(readxl)
```

```
## Warning: package 'readxl' was built under R version 4.1.3
```

```
library(data.table)
```

```
## Warning: package 'data.table' was built under R version 4.1.3
```

```
library(caret)
```

```
## Warning: package 'caret' was built under R version 4.1.3
```

```
## Loading required package: ggplot2
```

```
## Warning: package 'ggplot2' was built under R version 4.1.3
```

```
## Loading required package: lattice
```

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
library(rpart)
```

```
library(rpart.plot)
```

```
## Warning: package 'rpart.plot' was built under R version 4.1.3
```

```
library(randomForest)
```

```
## Warning: package 'randomForest' was built under R version 4.1.3
```

```
## randomForest 4.7-1.1
```

```
## Type rfNews() to see new features/changes/bug fixes.
```

```
##
```

```
## Attaching package: 'randomForest'
```

```
## The following object is masked from 'package:ggplot2':
```

```
##
```

```
##     margin
```

```
library(nnet)
```

When you click the **Knit** button a document will be generated that includes both content as well as the output of any embedded R code chunks within the document. You can embed an R code chunk like this:

```
ccheckdata <- read.csv('final_data.csv')
```

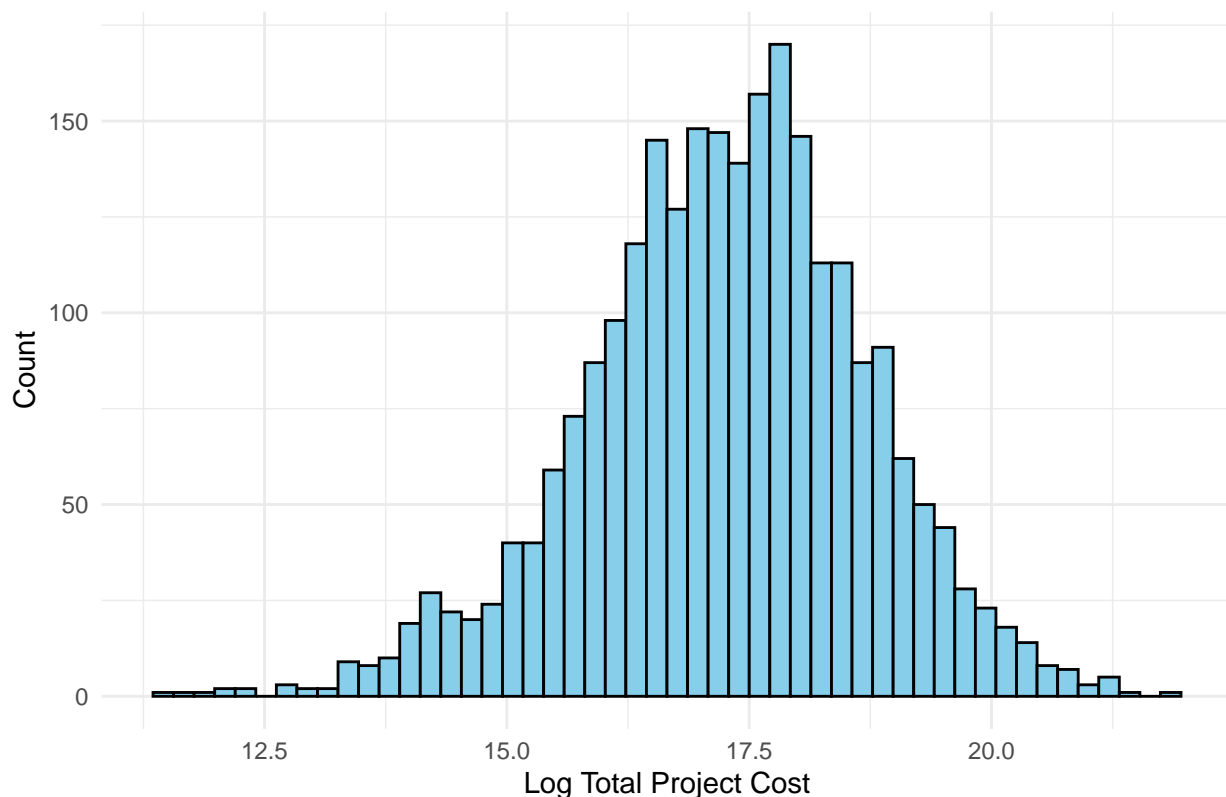
Remove variables that do not have predictive power and remove NaNs from the area cost factors variable and total project cost variable

```
new_cc_data <- subset(ccheckdata, select = -c(project_id, project_city))
new_cc_data <- new_cc_data[!is.na(new_cc_data$total_project_cost),]
new_cc_data <- new_cc_data[!is.na(new_cc_data$acf_2023),]
```

Remove outliers, normalize response variable, remove original response variable

```
new_cc_data <- new_cc_data[(new_cc_data$total_project_cost != max(new_cc_data$total_project_cost)),]
new_cc_data$log_total_project_cost <- log(new_cc_data$total_project_cost)
ggplot(new_cc_data, aes(x = log_total_project_cost)) +
  geom_histogram(bins = 50, fill = "skyblue", color = "black") +
  labs(title = "Histogram of Total Project Cost",
       x = "Log Total Project Cost",
       y = "Count") +
  theme_minimal()
```

Histogram of Total Project Cost



```
new_cc_data$total_project_cost <- NULL
```

Summarize data and find features that have too few levels. In this case, we're analyzing the project type variable.

```
table(new_cc_data$type)
```

```
##
##           Aircraft De-Icing Station
##                               4
##           Airport Cargo Facility
##                               21
##           Airport Electronic Maintenance
##                               19
##           Airport Runways/Taxiway
##                               63
##           Airport Security Control
##                               4
##           Airport Terminals
##                               19
##           Bridges & Culverts
##                               1
##           Cafeterias
##                               628
##           Cathedral
##                               130
##           Churches
##                               1
##           Colleges & Universities
##                               3
##           Commemorative and Funeral Monument
##                               267
##           Communication Devices
##                               190
##           Courthouses
##                               2
##           Critical Care Facility
##                               271
##           Custom Residence
##                               198
##           Fire Stations
##                               3
##           Hotel
##                               28
##           Motel
##                               7
## Municipal Water and Wastewater Facilities
##                               22
##           Offices
##                               1
##           Oil Refineries
##                               84
##           Parking Garages (free-standing)
```

```
##                6
##                Prisons
##                364
##                Rail Stations
##                22
##                Roads
##                1
##                Site Work
##                1
##                Sports and Fitness Facility
##                147
##                Tunnel & Bridge
##                3
##                Water and Sewage Piping
##                5
```

```
level_counts <- table(new_cc_data$type)

# Identify levels with 5 or fewer observations
rare_levels <- names(level_counts[level_counts <= 5])

# Count how many rows belong to these rare levels
num_rare_obs <- sum(new_cc_data$type %in% rare_levels)

cat("Number of observations with rare levels (<5):", num_rare_obs)
```

```
## Number of observations with rare levels (<5): 29
```

```
filtered_data <- new_cc_data[!(new_cc_data$type %in% rare_levels), ]
```

Summarize data and find features that have too few levels. In this case, we're analyzing the project state variable.

```
table(filtered_data$project_state)
```

```
##
##  AL  AR  AZ  CA  CO  CT  DC  DE  FL  GA  HI  ID  IL  IN  KS  LA  MA  MD  ME  MI
##  23  45  93  313  51  45   6  33 155 241   3   3  81  30  28  15  50  37   1 109
##  MN  MO  MS  MT  NC  ND  NE  NH  NJ  NM  NV  NY  OH  OK  OR  PA  RI  SC  SD  TN
##  68  47  34  18  44  22   9   3  54  20  19  51  91  24  11 160   7  34   3  56
##  TX  UT  VA  VT  WA  WI  WV  WY
## 213  21  36   3  26  22  21   7
```

```
level_counts <- table(filtered_data$project_state)

# Identify levels with 5 or fewer observations
rare_levels <- names(level_counts[level_counts <= 3])

# Count how many rows belong to these rare levels
num_rare_obs <- sum(filtered_data$project_state %in% rare_levels)

cat("Number of observations with rare levels (<3):", num_rare_obs)
```

```
## Number of observations with rare levels (<3): 16
```

```
filtered_data <- filtered_data[!(filtered_data$project_state %in% rare_levels), ]
```

remove predictor that does not vary

```
filtered_data$cost_div_46 <- NULL
```

Split data into training and testing

```
set.seed(1)
train_indices <- createDataPartition(filtered_data$log_total_project_cost, p = 0.8, list = FALSE)
train_data <- filtered_data[train_indices, ]
test_data <- filtered_data[-train_indices, ]
```

Train decision tree

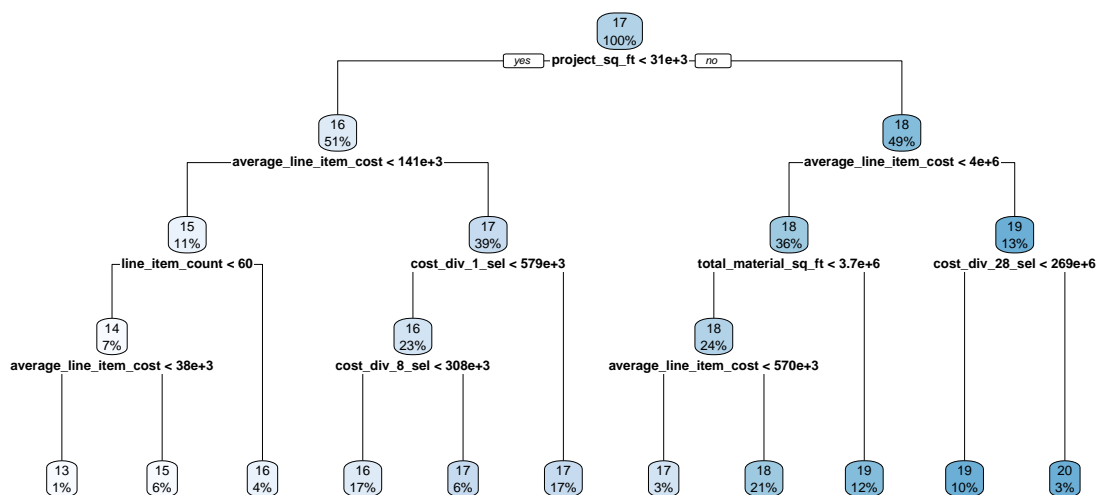
Note: This model is not used in our final report.

```
tree_model <- rpart(log_total_project_cost ~ ., data = train_data,
                    method = "anova")
```

Plot the tree

```
rpart.plot(tree_model, main = "Decision Tree for Project Cost")
```

Decision Tree for Project Cost



```
summary(tree_model)
```

```
## Call:
## rpart(formula = log_total_project_cost ~ ., data = train_data,
##       method = "anova")
##       n= 1978
##
##           CP nsplit rel error      xerror      xstd
## 1  0.49013354      0 1.0000000 1.0002764 0.034998213
## 2  0.11266744      1 0.5098665 0.5198280 0.021431869
## 3  0.08195714      2 0.3971990 0.4133945 0.016508185
## 4  0.03302081      3 0.3152419 0.3446442 0.014610556
## 5  0.03289163      4 0.2822211 0.2923038 0.012725958
## 6  0.02604420      5 0.2493294 0.2758380 0.012183683
## 7  0.01663688      6 0.2232852 0.2540206 0.011718938
## 8  0.01588222      7 0.2066483 0.2366115 0.011178947
## 9  0.01363977      8 0.1907661 0.2144930 0.009764130
## 10 0.01094812      9 0.1771264 0.2041877 0.009281731
## 11 0.01000000     10 0.1661782 0.1854354 0.008658368
##
## Variable importance
##           project_sq_ft average_line_item_cost  total_material_sq_ft
##                   21                   20                   16
## cost_div_28_sel      cost_div_8_sel      cost_div_1_sel
##                   12                   11                   11
## line_item_count      cost_div_0_sel      cost_div_12_sel
##                   2                   1                   1
## cost_div_11      cost_div_9_sel      type
##                   1                   1                   1
## cost_div_7_sel
##                   1
##
## Node number 1: 1978 observations,      complexity param=0.4901335
## mean=17.2775, MSE=2.075171
## left son=2 (1006 obs) right son=3 (972 obs)
## Primary splits:
## project_sq_ft < 31460 to the left, improve=0.4901335, (0 missing)
## total_material_sq_ft < 1016282 to the left, improve=0.4645487, (0 missing)
## average_line_item_cost < 684149 to the left, improve=0.4100339, (0 missing)
## cost_div_8_sel < 743986 to the left, improve=0.3620665, (0 missing)
## cost_div_1_sel < 1003440 to the left, improve=0.3564567, (0 missing)
## Surrogate splits:
## total_material_sq_ft < 886174.9 to the left, agree=0.850, adj=0.694, (0 split)
## average_line_item_cost < 838112.4 to the left, agree=0.814, adj=0.621, (0 split)
## cost_div_8_sel < 589464 to the left, agree=0.764, adj=0.521, (0 split)
## cost_div_28_sel < 28173510 to the left, agree=0.760, adj=0.512, (0 split)
## cost_div_1_sel < 1033310 to the left, agree=0.760, adj=0.511, (0 split)
##
## Node number 2: 1006 observations,      complexity param=0.1126674
## mean=16.28617, MSE=1.196617
## left son=4 (227 obs) right son=5 (779 obs)
## Primary splits:
## average_line_item_cost < 141189.4 to the left, improve=0.3841718, (0 missing)
```



```

##      line_item_count      < 54.5      to the left,  agree=0.660, adj=0.204, (0 split)
##      cost_div_0_sel       < 985507.5  to the left,  agree=0.657, adj=0.198, (0 split)
##      project_sq_ft        < 18386     to the left,  agree=0.655, adj=0.192, (0 split)
##      total_material_sq_ft < 870644.5  to the left,  agree=0.651, adj=0.183, (0 split)
##
## Node number 6: 710 observations,      complexity param=0.03302081
##      mean=17.94613, MSE=0.5832989
##      left son=12 (469 obs) right son=13 (241 obs)
##      Primary splits:
##      total_material_sq_ft < 3725186   to the left,  improve=0.3272792, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_7_sel       < 1548636   to the left,  improve=0.2859645, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_12_sel      < 3797784   to the left,  improve=0.2759009, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_9_sel       < 3064028   to the left,  improve=0.2755372, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_8_sel       < 1283564   to the left,  improve=0.2612079, (0 missing)
##      Surrogate splits:
##      line_item_count < 82             to the left,  agree=0.883, adj=0.656, (0 split)
##      cost_div_12_sel < 3501058        to the left,  agree=0.776, adj=0.340, (0 split)
##      cost_div_7_sel   < 1855237        to the left,  agree=0.766, adj=0.311, (0 split)
##      cost_div_10      < 291399         to the left,  agree=0.754, adj=0.274, (0 split)
##      cost_div_11      < 1002556        to the left,  agree=0.754, adj=0.274, (0 split)
##
## Node number 7: 262 observations,      complexity param=0.01663688
##      mean=19.27196, MSE=0.528609
##      left son=14 (206 obs) right son=15 (56 obs)
##      Primary splits:
##      cost_div_28_sel      < 269119000 to the left,  improve=0.4930789, (0 missing)
##      average_line_item_cost < 15012100 to the left,  improve=0.4858649, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_1_sel       < 10856530   to the left,  improve=0.3937031, (0 missing)
##      total_material_sq_ft < 2949820    to the left,  improve=0.3774576, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_8_sel       < 4825974    to the left,  improve=0.3633515, (0 missing)
##      Surrogate splits:
##      average_line_item_cost < 16265070 to the left,  agree=0.916, adj=0.607, (0 split)
##      cost_div_8_sel       < 7877166    to the left,  agree=0.863, adj=0.357, (0 split)
##      cost_div_0_sel       < 18053540    to the left,  agree=0.847, adj=0.286, (0 split)
##      cost_div_1_sel       < 10960230    to the left,  agree=0.844, adj=0.268, (0 split)
##      cost_div_42         < 3758001     to the left,  agree=0.840, adj=0.250, (0 split)
##
## Node number 8: 146 observations,      complexity param=0.01094812
##      mean=14.45572, MSE=0.7309211
##      left son=16 (22 obs) right son=17 (124 obs)
##      Primary splits:
##      average_line_item_cost < 37843.45 to the left,  improve=0.4211108, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_0_sel       < 1442        to the left,  improve=0.3140793, (0 missing)
##      cost_div_1_sel       < 42257       to the left,  improve=0.2915135, (0 missing)
##      total_material_sq_ft < 61289.68   to the left,  improve=0.2901081, (0 missing)
##      line_item_count      < 25.5       to the left,  improve=0.2862524, (0 missing)
##      Surrogate splits:
##      project_state splits as --RRLR--RRRR--RRRRRR--RRRLR--RR--R--RRR--RRR--R, agree=0.877, adj=0.182, (0
##      type             splits as RRRLRRRRRR--RRR--RRR, agree=0.856, adj=0.045, (0 split)
##
## Node number 9: 81 observations
##      mean=16.06554, MSE=0.7047206
##
## Node number 10: 446 observations,      complexity param=0.01363977

```



```

## mean=16.33207, MSE=0.4077281
## left son=20 (333 obs) right son=21 (113 obs)
## Primary splits:
## cost_div_8_sel < 308479 to the left, improve=0.3078801, (0 missing)
## total_material_sq_ft < 202725.3 to the left, improve=0.3061491, (0 missing)
## average_line_item_cost < 525237.8 to the left, improve=0.2843547, (0 missing)
## cost_div_3_sel < 329292 to the left, improve=0.2731279, (0 missing)
## cost_div_28_sel < 14293480 to the left, improve=0.2599348, (0 missing)
## Surrogate splits:
## cost_div_5_sel < 461209 to the left, agree=0.848, adj=0.398, (0 split)
## cost_div_3_sel < 499947 to the left, agree=0.832, adj=0.336, (0 split)
## cost_div_9_sel < 761023.5 to the left, agree=0.832, adj=0.336, (0 split)
## cost_div_7_sel < 356558 to the left, agree=0.821, adj=0.292, (0 split)
## cost_div_4 < 563233.5 to the left, agree=0.818, adj=0.283, (0 split)
##
## Node number 11: 333 observations
## mean=17.08089, MSE=0.4617875
##
## Node number 12: 469 observations, complexity param=0.01588222
## mean=17.63293, MSE=0.3811734
## left son=24 (54 obs) right son=25 (415 obs)
## Primary splits:
## average_line_item_cost < 569683.7 to the left, improve=0.3646667, (0 missing)
## type splits as -RLRRRRRRRLRR-R-R, improve=0.2181468, (0 missing)
## cost_div_28_sel < 40448940 to the left, improve=0.2120978, (0 missing)
## cost_div_9_sel < 1851057 to the left, improve=0.1838151, (0 missing)
## cost_div_6_sel < 198089.5 to the left, improve=0.1804262, (0 missing)
## Surrogate splits:
## type splits as -RLRRRRRRRRRLRR-R-R, agree=0.919, adj=0.296, (0 split)
## cost_div_2 < 223024.2 to the right, agree=0.915, adj=0.259, (0 split)
## project_category splits as LRRRRRRRRRRRLR, agree=0.908, adj=0.204, (0 split)
## cost_div_13 < 2825.905 to the right, agree=0.902, adj=0.148, (0 split)
## cost_div_32 < 38601.9 to the right, agree=0.902, adj=0.148, (0 split)
##
## Node number 13: 241 observations
## mean=18.55564, MSE=0.4142397
##
## Node number 14: 206 observations
## mean=19.00577, MSE=0.2737803
##
## Node number 15: 56 observations
## mean=20.25114, MSE=0.246564
##
## Node number 16: 22 observations
## mean=13.13858, MSE=0.6749336
##
## Node number 17: 124 observations
## mean=14.68941, MSE=0.3784461
##
## Node number 20: 333 observations
## mean=16.12568, MSE=0.2987411
##
## Node number 21: 113 observations
## mean=16.94029, MSE=0.233442

```

```
##
## Node number 24: 54 observations
##   mean=16.59937, MSE=0.5452008
##
## Node number 25: 415 observations
##   mean=17.76741, MSE=0.2027419
```

Build the prediction

```
predictions <- predict(tree_model, newdata = test_data)
predictions <- exp(predictions)
```

Evaluate Decision Tree Model Performance

```
MAE <- mean(abs(predictions - exp(test_data$log_total_project_cost)))
RMSE <- sqrt(mean((predictions - exp(test_data$log_total_project_cost))^2))
cat("MAE:", MAE, "RMSE:", RMSE)
```

```
## MAE: 35000940 RMSE: 99264470
```

Develop Random Forest

```
rf_model <- randomForest(
  log_total_project_cost ~ .,
  data = train_data,
  ntree = 500,           # Number of trees
  mtry = 3,             # Number of variables randomly sampled at each split (can tune this)
  importance = TRUE     # Enables feature importance output
)
```

Print Random Forest results

```
print(rf_model)
```

```
##
## Call:
## randomForest(formula = log_total_project_cost ~ ., data = train_data,      ntree = 500, mtry = 3, i
##               Type of random forest: regression
##               Number of trees: 500
## No. of variables tried at each split: 3
##
##               Mean of squared residuals: 0.07339637
##               % Var explained: 96.46
```

Find the most important variables

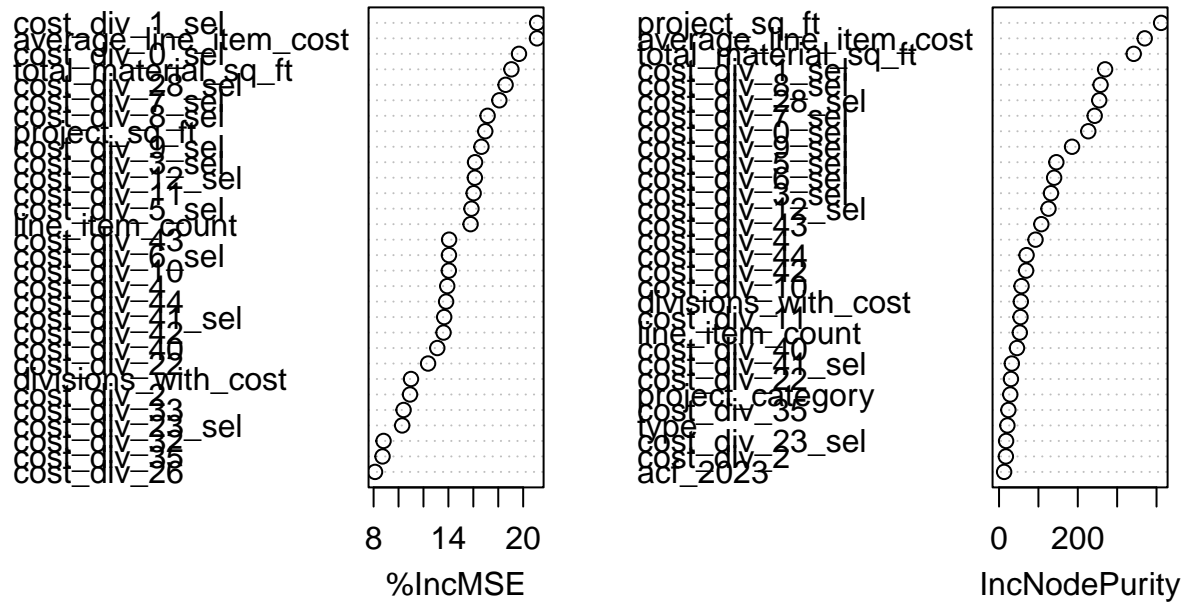
```
importance(rf_model)
```

```
##
##               %IncMSE IncNodePurity
## project_state      5.3381119      10.6528069
## project_sq_ft     16.9565386     411.6545836
```

## type	6.0709192	21.1671054
## project_category	5.7768041	28.5308278
## construction_category	6.4707350	3.5377223
## acf_2023	6.4763579	12.9234849
## new_construction_median_sale_price_per_sqft_norm	5.5982390	12.8385690
## cost_div_0_sel	19.6631602	226.7050287
## cost_div_1_sel	21.1174549	269.3339574
## cost_div_2	10.9233865	17.3105146
## cost_div_3_sel	16.1376616	131.9541797
## cost_div_4	13.9067846	92.6245118
## cost_div_5_sel	15.8517741	145.5667149
## cost_div_6_sel	14.0448463	139.9181850
## cost_div_7_sel	18.0892505	242.9298566
## cost_div_8_sel	17.1452175	257.8663326
## cost_div_9_sel	16.6506882	185.4594215
## cost_div_10	14.0356474	57.1757977
## cost_div_11	16.0264534	54.5239134
## cost_div_12_sel	16.1238624	125.5826515
## cost_div_13	4.5495583	6.6596379
## cost_div_14	4.6922154	2.3919320
## cost_div_21	6.5753491	8.2578680
## cost_div_22	12.3713175	30.2248836
## cost_div_23_sel	10.2928492	17.9739847
## cost_div_25	0.3084526	0.2559805
## cost_div_26	8.1163762	9.9109943
## cost_div_27	5.8342438	4.1450005
## cost_div_28_sel	18.5901340	254.5068910
## cost_div_31	7.5497419	10.0250462
## cost_div_32	8.7992408	9.9205299
## cost_div_33	10.4062068	11.3038690
## cost_div_34	6.7170158	5.4531796
## cost_div_35	8.7161717	23.7089450
## cost_div_40	13.1103496	45.5540151
## cost_div_41_sel	13.6629038	32.4958938
## cost_div_42	13.6122440	68.7250754
## cost_div_43	14.0590363	107.3882519
## cost_div_44	13.8172084	69.9137670
## cost_div_48	0.2497902	0.6231834
## has_div_21_cost	4.5397020	2.5120055
## has_div_31_cost	4.1625242	5.0708088
## has_div_22_cost	5.6582770	3.8936933
## has_div_48_cost	1.5112340	0.5270865
## line_item_count	15.7808704	52.7471061
## total_material_sq_ft	19.0555338	342.0930918
## divisions_with_cost	10.9999121	55.3609782
## average_line_item_cost	21.1065982	370.0252884

```
varImpPlot(rf_model)
```

rf_model



Predict using random forest

```
predictions <- predict(rf_model, newdata = test_data)
predictions <- exp(predictions)
```

Evaluate random forest model

```
true_values <- exp(test_data$log_total_project_cost)
MAE <- mean(abs(predictions - true_values))
RMSE <- sqrt(mean((predictions - true_values)^2))
```

R-squared

```
SS_res <- sum((true_values - predictions)^2)
SS_tot <- sum((true_values - mean(true_values))^2)
R2 <- 1 - (SS_res / SS_tot)
```

Print results

```
cat("MAE:", round(MAE, 2), "\n")
```

```
## MAE: 19119054
```

```
cat("RMSE:", round(RMSE, 2), "\n")
```

```
## RMSE: 80078924
```

```
cat("R-squared:", round(R2, 4), "\n")
```

```
## R-squared: 0.7436
```

Normalize predictors to use in Neural Network model

```
train_nn <- train_data
test_nn <- test_data
factor_cols <- c("project_state", "type", "project_category", "construction_category")

train_nn[factor_cols] <- lapply(train_nn[factor_cols], as.factor)
for (col in factor_cols) {
  test_nn[[col]] <- factor(test_nn[[col]], levels = levels(train_nn[[col]]))
}

# Identify numeric predictors (excluding target and factors)
numeric_cols <- setdiff(names(train_nn), c("log_total_project_cost", factor_cols))

# Scale numeric columns using training set statistics
train_nn[numeric_cols] <- scale(train_nn[numeric_cols])

# Scale test set using same stats
center_vals <- attr(scale(train_data[numeric_cols]), "scaled:center")
scale_vals <- attr(scale(train_data[numeric_cols]), "scaled:scale")
test_nn[numeric_cols] <- scale(test_nn[numeric_cols], center = center_vals, scale = scale_vals)

train_nn <- na.omit(train_nn)
test_nn <- na.omit(test_nn)
```

Train Neural Network

```
set.seed(42)
nn_model <- nnet(
  log_total_project_cost ~ .,
  data = train_nn,
  size = 1,          # Number of hidden units
  linout = TRUE,     # Regression (not classification)
  maxit = 1000       # Max iterations
)
```

```
## # weights: 118
## initial value 652659.331534
## iter 10 value 5814.580864
## iter 20 value 5266.102080
## iter 30 value 2870.086964
## iter 40 value 2453.819731
## iter 50 value 1855.702838
## iter 60 value 1717.784677
## iter 70 value 1649.091196
## iter 80 value 1479.711400
## iter 90 value 1288.925117
## iter 100 value 1073.048327
```

```
## iter 110 value 986.360576
## iter 120 value 932.029383
## iter 130 value 883.891787
## iter 140 value 858.464512
## iter 150 value 834.585359
## iter 160 value 822.080937
## iter 170 value 814.778235
## iter 180 value 766.918667
## iter 190 value 756.569499
## iter 200 value 738.581343
## iter 210 value 725.468552
## iter 220 value 713.830199
## iter 230 value 679.768015
## iter 240 value 648.287532
## iter 250 value 606.502078
## iter 260 value 567.856270
## iter 270 value 553.486088
## iter 280 value 550.798374
## iter 290 value 550.435445
## iter 300 value 550.305528
## iter 310 value 548.199666
## iter 320 value 548.098100
## final value 548.097858
## converged
```

Predict and evaluate neural network

```
# Predict log(cost)
log_preds <- predict(nn_model, newdata = test_nn)

# Convert back to original scale
preds <- exp(log_preds)
actual <- exp(test_nn$log_total_project_cost)

# Performance metrics
MAE <- mean(abs(preds - actual))
RMSE <- sqrt(mean((preds - actual)^2))

# R-squared
SS_res <- sum((actual - preds)^2)
SS_tot <- sum((actual - mean(actual))^2)
R2 <- 1 - (SS_res / SS_tot)

cat("MAE:", round(MAE, 2), "\n")
```

```
## MAE: 35238431
```

```
cat("RMSE:", round(RMSE, 2), "\n")
```

```
## RMSE: 125362737
```

```
cat("R-squared:", round(R2, 4), "\n")
```

```
## R-squared: 0.3715
```

Put results together

```
results_df <- data.frame(  
  Actual = exp(test_data$log_total_project_cost),  
  Predicted_rf = predictions,  
  Predicted_nn = preds  
)
```