Sound Realty
House Price Model

Ryan Mahtab

Agenda

# Model Overview

Business Objective

- Model that predicts house prices
- Trained on sales data from 5/2/14 - 5/27/15
- Model inputs
  - House features
  - Zip Code level demographic features
- Predictions returned to users in real-time

House Features
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,000 square feet, ... → **House Price Model** → **Predicted Price** $850,000

Base Model Details

- Using 33 features out of 18 available
  - 7/18 property features
  - 26/26 demographic features
- Using Mean Absolute Error (MAE) as training metric
- Performance
  - $102,069 MAE
- Important features: property square footage, zip code house values, & suburban population

Feature importance (mean |SHAP| values)

5
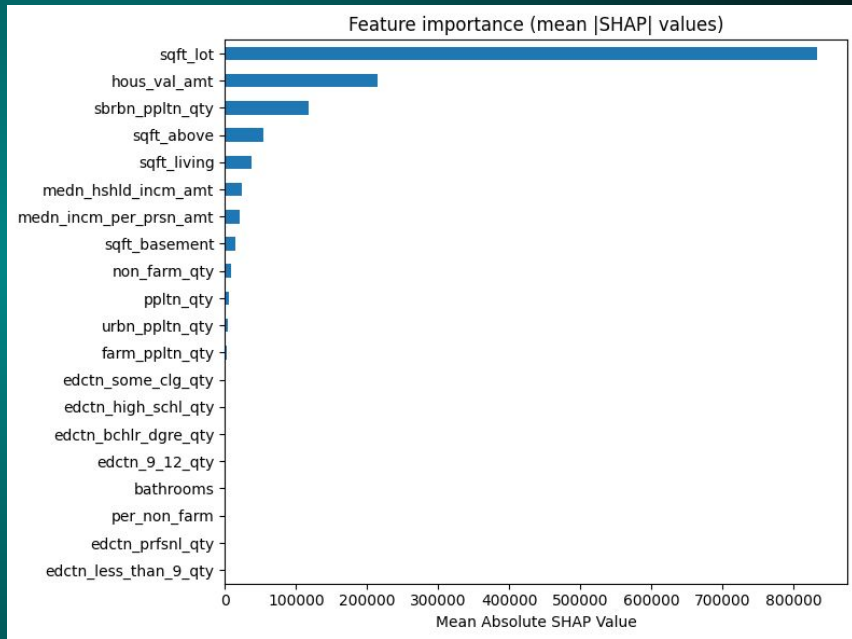
v2 Model Details

- Using 39 features out of 18 available
  - 13/18 property features
  - 26/26 demographic features
- Performance
  - $75,071 MAE
- Important features: living square footage, property grade, & zip code house values
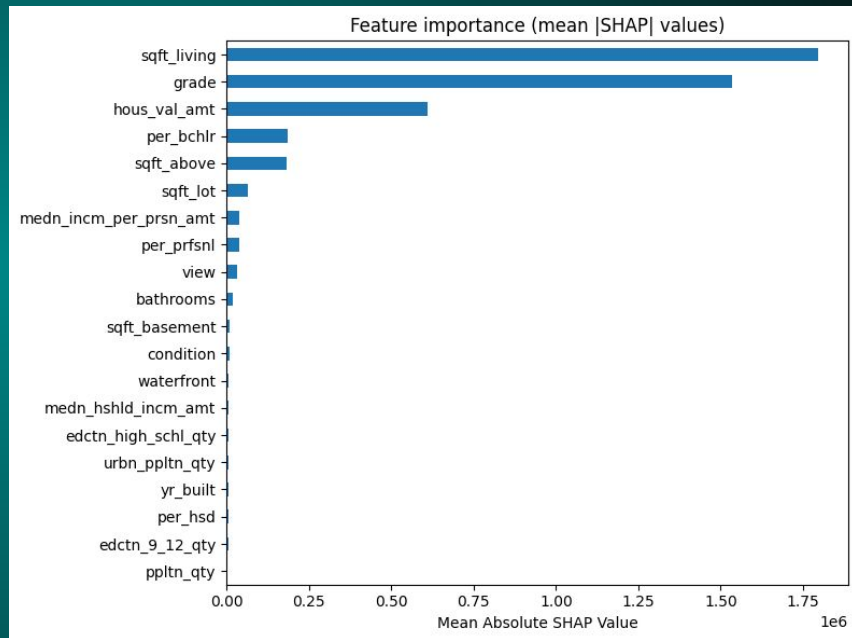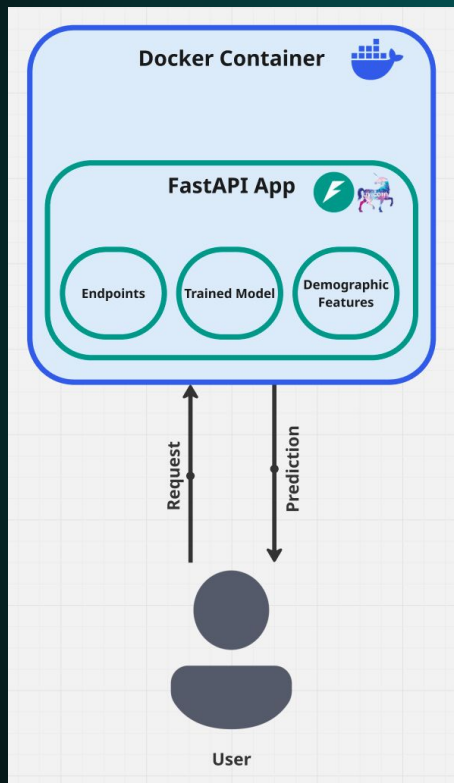

Feature importance (mean |SHAP| values)

6

Technical Details
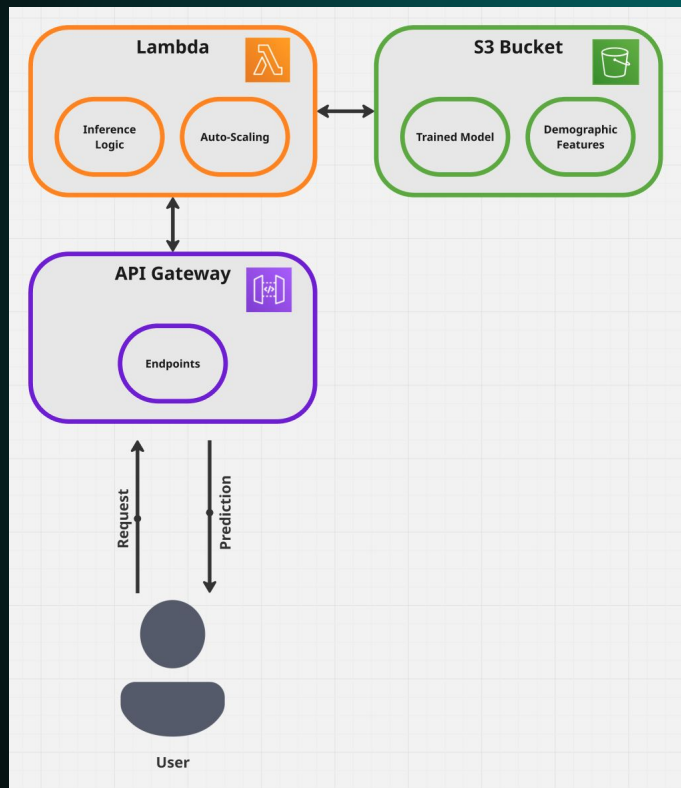
Technical Architecture

- Dockerized FastAPI service for real-time model inference
  - Loads preprocessing + model on startup
- Uvicorn server handles HTTP requests to endpoints
  - /predict and /predict-lite
- Pydantic schemas validate incoming payloads
- Seamlessly hot-swap models with /reload-model endpoint

8

Technical Architecture: Future State

- API Gateway routes HTTP requests to Lambda function
- Lambda loads model artifacts from S3 bucket
- Lambda executes inference and returns JSON response
- Lambda concurrency handles horizontal auto-scaling
- S3 stores versioned ML models and features

Areas of Improvement

- Supplement training data
  - More recent sales data (2015-2025)
  - Multi-year range of data
- Enrich feature set
  - Macroeconomic (mortgage rates, inflation indices, property tax rates)
  - Use lat/long to generate neighborhood clusters
- Expand model training
  - More extensive hyperparameter tuning
  - Experiment with more model algorithms (linear, boosting)