Predictive Modeling and Interactive Visualization Dashboard for Car Price Forecasting

Author

Sanjana Rajesh Pisal

master's in data Analytics University of Illinois Springfield Guided by: Prof. Liang Kong

Project Overview

This project aims to build a machine learning system to predict used car prices using structured data, and to deliver meaningful insights through a Power BI dashboard.

The end goal is to assist car buyers, sellers, and analysts by offering:

- Accurate car price predictions
- Visual exploration of pricing patterns and key influencers
- A business-ready, interpretable model selection pipeline

Problem Statement

Traditional pricing methods are either manual or rule-based and fail to capture the complexity of modern car features. The goal here is:

- To build a robust, scalable ML model for predicting car prices.
- To complement this with an interactive dashboard for insights and decision support.

Dataset

• Source: Kaggle - Car Price Prediction Dataset

Rows: 205

• Features: 26 (including brand, fuel type, engine size, horsepower, etc.)

Target: price

Machine Learning Models Used

Six regression models were trained and compared:

- 1. Linear Regression
- 2. Ridge Regression
- 3. Lasso Regression
- 4. Decision Tree Regressor
- 5. Random Forest Regressor Best Performer
- 6. Gradient Boosting Regressor

Evaluation Metrics:

- R² Score
- Mean Absolute Error (MAE)
- Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)
- Cross-validation score (CV)

A **composite scoring system** was used to objectively compare model performance.

Best Model: Random Forest Regressor

- Test R²: ~0.96
- Cross-Validation Score: ~0.89
- MAE (Top 30 samples): 1356.65
- Chosen for its accuracy, generalization, and ability to handle outliers and feature interactions.

Power BI Dashboard

- Created to visualize car price trends and model output
- Features:
 - o Brand-wise price distribution

- o Filters: Fuel type, body type, drive wheels
- Donut & bar charts for average prices
- Line plots to show trend by brand and year

Technologies Used

- Python (Jupyter Notebook)
 - o pandas, numpy, sklearn, seaborn, matplotlib
- Machine Learning
 - o Regression Models (Linear, Tree-based, Ensemble)
- Power BI
 - o For dashboard and dynamic visualizations

Results & Conclusion

- Random Forest outperformed all models.
- Created a fully interpretable dashboard to aid real-world business decisionmaking.
- Delivered a complete ML pipeline, from data loading to prediction and visualization.

References

Kaggle Dataset

Dashboard: -

