

#### **Business Problem**

As defined by Investopedia, a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is "... a set of quantifiable measurements used to gauge a company's overall long-term performance." While KPIs are typically used internally to measure goal-specific progress, this project aims to extend the idea and provide a proof-of-concept analysis of the most important fundamental factors with regard to a given company's share price.

Traditional equity valuation models rely on some form of forecasting the evolution of income sheet, balance sheet, and cash flow statement line items into the near future combined with an expected terminal value. While this methodology is the theoretically "correct" way to value a company's equity, there is no inherent check for the relative importance of each line item beyond the valuation analyst's domain expertise. Enhanced insight into these relative importances would allow for more efficient utilization of the analyst's focus and could ultimately lead to more accurate valuations and price predictions. A simplified workflow incorporating the Stock KPIs project would look as follows:



#### **Data Sources**

Multiple data sources were used in order to complete this project. Initially, all fundamental data was downloaded in bulk directly from the SEC using their relatively new EDGAR API. However, due to lack of documentation, support, and missing values, this data was scrapped in favor of alternative sources of fundamental data such as SimFin. Historical pricing data and miscellaneous company information (website, business summary, etc.) was obtained from Yahoo! Finance via the <a href="mailto:yfinance">yfinance</a> package. Finally, the list of current S&P 500 constituents (as of late August 2021) was retrieved from the List of S&P 500 companies article on Wikipedia.









#### **Repository Structure**

```
- archive/
                          # Archived SEC data and notebooks
— data/
                          # See more detailed explanation below
   --- merged_data/
    - preprocessed_data/
   -- price_histories/
    - simfin/
   L— sp500.csv
- images/
                          # Images used in the readme, presentation, etc.
                          # Exported models using joblib
- models/
                          # Notebooks used for data gathering, prep, modeling, etc.
 notebooks/
                          # Files used for the project submissions
 submissions/
 .gitignore
 LICENSE
- README.md
```

Further explanation of the data directory is warranted given the multiple subdirectories.

- merged\_data contains files for companies where the price histories and fundamental data has been merged together.
- preprocessed\_data contians files for each file in the merged\_data directory that has had its missing values handled.
- price\_histories contains historical share price data for each company.
- simfin contains fundamanetal data for each company's income sheet, balance sheet, and cash flow statement.
- sp500.csv is a file that contains a list of each company in the S&P 500 with basic information such as the ticker, company name, industry, etc.

# Preprocessing

#### **Merging Data**

After obtaining both the fundamental data and share price history of a given company, the data needed to be merged into a single file for modeling purposes. To accomplish this, the income sheet, balance sheet, and cash flow statement data contained in the data/simfin directory was filtered to the targeted company and then concatenated.

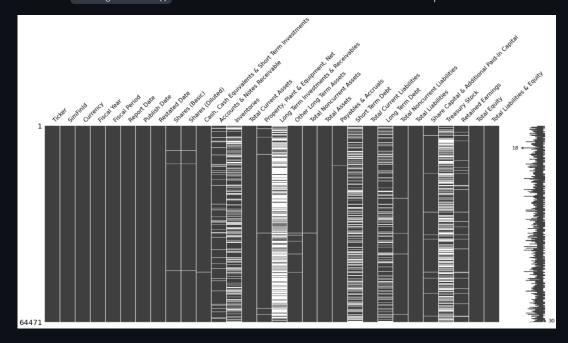
```
# Concatenating financials
financials = pd.concat([income, balance, cashflow], axis=1).reset_index()
```

Since the fundamental data is released on a quarterly basis, merging in the price history required an asof merge via pandas.merge\_asof which allowed for finding the closest price value for each report date of the fundamentals.

right\_on='Price Date',
direction='backward')

## **Handling Missing Values**

Certain fundamental data retrieved from SimFin was sparsely populated. As an example, the below image shows the <code>missingno.matrix()</code> function called on the balance sheet data for all companies.



Imputation is a somewhat risky methodology for this particular data, even with more advanced techniques such as iterative imputation. While not ideal, the safest route was to drop those columns which did not meet a certain minimum non-null threshold and then drop the remaining rows with null values thereafter. This threshold was set at 30 in order to ensure enough data was available for the model to work with. For context, when the fundamental data was filtered down to a specific company, there would typically be around 60-65 rows of data total.

```
for i, ticker in enumerate(snp_tickers):
    # Loading in data
    df = pd.read_csv(f'../data/merged_data/{ticker}_merged.csv')

# Dropping columns below the threshold
    threshold = 30
    to_drop = [col for col in df.columns if df[col].isna().sum() > len(df) - threshold]
    df = df.drop(columns=to_drop)

# Dropping rows with remaining missing data
    df = df.dropna()

# Exporting dataframe
    df.to_csv(f'../data/preprocessed_data/{ticker}_preprocessed.csv', index=False)
```

It is important to note that this process was done in a company-specific manner in order to preserve as much information as possible. As a result, certain features may have been dropped for Company A that were kept for Company B due to differences in the number of missing values for those particular companies.

## Modeling

#### XGBRFRegressor

The XGBoost Random Forest Regressor was chosen as the model to use based on the following key attributes:

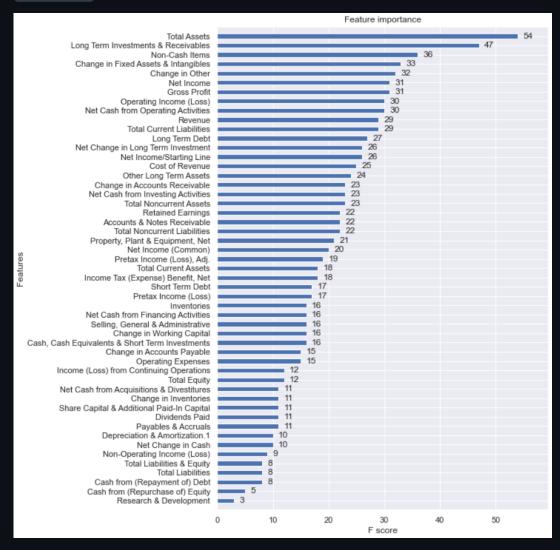
- Resiliency to overfitting, outliers, and non-linear data
- Lack of normalization requirements due to its rule-based approach
- Parellelization allows for faster computation time
- Handles high dimensionality of data with ease

#### **Hyperparameter Tuning**

The following hyperparameters were optimized using the <code>GridSearchCV</code> function from the <code>sklearn.model\_selection</code> module.

#### **Example Feature Importances**

An example of the feature importances values obtained from fitting a hyperparameter optimized XGBRFRegressor model to the data for Microsoft (MSFT) can be seen below.



#### **Exporting Models**

After running a test case on one ticker, a for loop was constructed to iterate over each ticker in the list of S&P 500 tickers and accomplish the following:

- Read in the preprocessed .csv file to a dataframe from the data/preprocessed directory for the given ticker
- Check for and handle rare errors such as EmptyDataError Or KeyError
- Fit a hyperparameter optimized XGBRFRegressor model to the data
- Export the best performing estimator to the models directory with the following code:

```
# Exporting model
best = model.best_estimator_
joblib.dump(best, f'../models/{ticker}_model.joblib')
```

## **Interactive Dashboard**

### **Running the Dashboard**

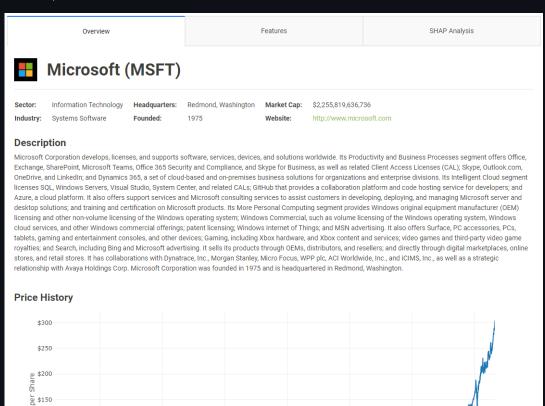
To run the dashboard, simply set the ticker variable in app.ipynb (under the notebooks directory) to a company in the S&P 500 and then run the notebook.

```
ticker = 'AAPL'
```

The majority of the code in the app.ipynb notebook is responsible for loading in the proper saved model, fetching company information, and defining the layout of the dashboard. The following code at the end of the notebook is responsible for actually running the dashboard:

#### **Overview Tab**

The Overview tab provides basic information on the selected company along with a business summary and historical price chart.

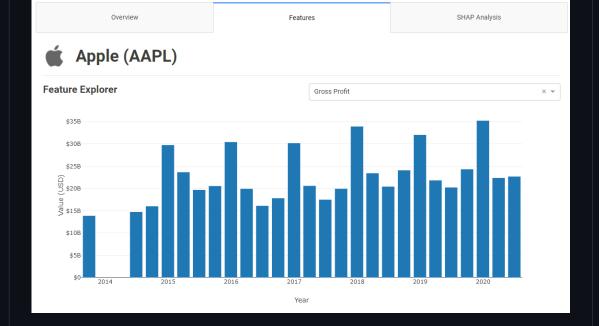


Year

#### **Features Tab**

\$100

The features tab allows for exploring the selected company's various fundamental data.



## **SHAP Analysis Tab**

The SHAP Analysis tab contains fulfills the project's goal by detailing the relative importances of the various fundamental factors for the given company.

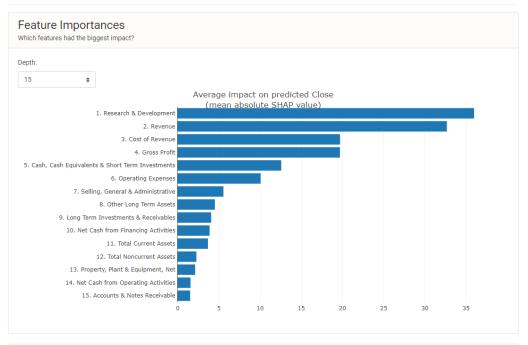
The following description of SHAP from its repository provides a brief explanation of the values:

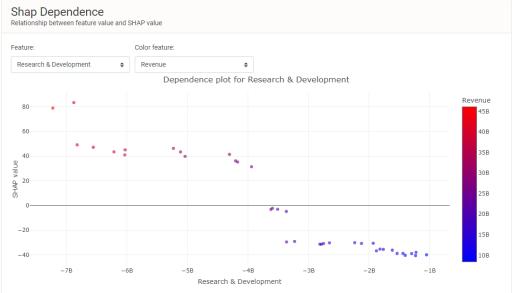
SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) is a game theoretic approach to explain the output of any machine learning model. It connects optimal credit allocation with local explanations using the classic Shapley values from game theory and their related extensions (see papers for details and citations).

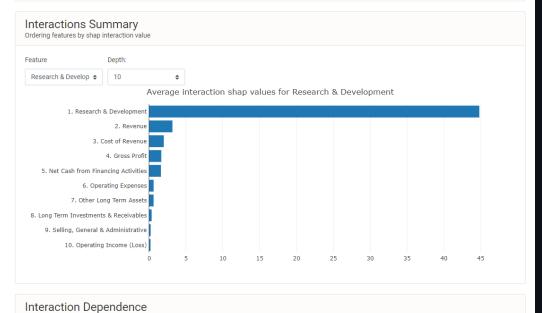
In essence, the SHAP values show how an individual feature impacted the results of the model.

# Alphabe

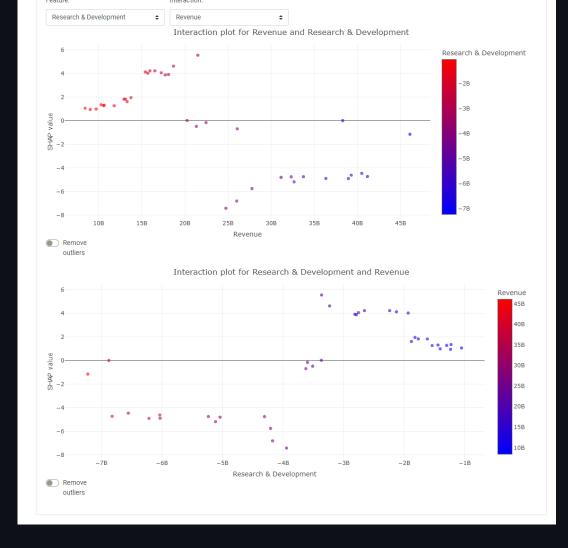
## Alphabet (Class C) (GOOG)







## Relation between feature value and shap interaction value



# **Future Improvements**

- Investigate enhanced preprocessing and modeling techniques for better results
- Rank companies by specific fundamentals (e.g., which companies have the highest SHAP values for R&D?)
- Include additional model analysis components either from the explainerdashboard library or custombuilt
- Allow for changing between companies directly within the dashboard (requires core code changes to the underlying explainerdashboard library)