Subject: Machine Learning

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CO2 Emissions Prediction System: Machine Learning Implementation and Cloud Architecture

Executive Summary

This report details developing and implementing a machine learning system designed to predict annual CO2 emissions across different countries and regions. The project successfully implemented advanced modelling techniques, achieving a remarkable R^2 score of 0.89, demonstrating strong predictive capabilities. While the AWS cloud deployment encountered technical challenges, the project established a robust foundation for future enterprise-scale implementations.

Project Context and Background

The global challenge of managing CO2 emissions requires sophisticated predictive tools to support evidence-based policymaking. Traditional analysis methods often fail to process complex emission patterns and provide accurate forecasts. This project addresses these limitations through advanced machine-learning techniques and cloud computing integration.

Technical Appendices and Abbreviations

Abbreviations Used

- MSE: Mean Squared Error
- R^2: R-squared (Coefficient of Determination)
- API: Application Programming Interface
- AWS: Amazon Web Services
- ML: Machine Learning
- CO2: Carbon Dioxide
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- ICCP: International Climate Change Partnership
- CSV: Comma-Separated Values
- JSON: JavaScript Object Notation
- HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol
- REST: Representational State Transfer
- IDE: Integrated Development Environment

Dataset Analysis and Preparation

The project utilized a comprehensive dataset from the Global Carbon Project and the International Energy Agency from 1750 to 2022. The dataset's key characteristics include:
Scope and Coverage:

- 35,058 distinct entries
- Global coverage at the country level
- Four primary columns: Entity, Code, Year, Annual CO2 emissions
- Temporal range: 272 years of historical data

Data Quality Assessment: Initial analysis revealed several critical aspects requiring attention:

- Missing values in country codes (6,151 instances)
- Highly skewed emission distributions

- Non-uniform temporal sampling
- Regional reporting inconsistencies

Data Preprocessing Steps: The preparation phase implemented robust cleaning and transformation procedures:

- Standardization of country codes
- Temporal alignment of measurements
- Outlier detection and validation
- Missing value imputation where appropriate

Model Development and Methodology

Feature Engineering

My approach to feature engineering focused on capturing complex temporal and regional patterns in emission data:

Temporal Features Development: Using temporal features enhanced the model's capture of historical patterns and cyclical variations. We developed:

- Sinusoidal transformations of year values to capture cyclical patterns
- Year-over-year emission growth rates to track acceleration
- Moving averages to smooth short-term fluctuations

Regional Feature Engineering: Understanding geographical patterns proved crucial for prediction accuracy. We implemented:

- Regional aggregation metrics
- Country-specific historical trend indicators
- Economic development phase indicators

Categorical Data Processing: The transformation of categorical variables required careful consideration:

- Entity and Code features underwent label encoding
- Preservation of hierarchical relationships
- Validation through correlation analysis

Model Selection and Implementation

The modeling process followed a systematic approach, progressively implementing and evaluating different algorithms:

Baseline Model (Linear Regression): Initial implementation provided fundamental insights:

- Basic linear relationships established
- R^2 Score: 0.38
- MSE: 0.66
- Served as performance benchmark

Random Forest Implementation: Advanced tree-based modeling improved predictions:

- Enhanced capture of non-linear relationships
- R^2 Score: 0.85
- Improved feature importance insights
- Better handling of categorical variables

Gradient Boosting Enhancement: Further refinement through gradient boosting:

- Superior handling of complex patterns
- R^2 Score: 0.87
- Reduced overfitting risk
- Improved prediction stability

XGBoost (Final Model): Ultimate implementation achieving optimal performance:

- R^2 Score: 0.89
- MSE: 0.81
- Robust cross-validation results
- Superior feature importance analysis

Model Evaluation and Performance Analysis

Performance Metrics

Based on our actual implementation results:

Initial Linear Regression:

- Mean Squared Error (MSE): 0.66
- R^2 Score: 0.38
- Used Entity, Code, Year as base features

Feature Enhancement Impact:

- Post feature engineering MSE: 0.64
- Improved R^2 Score: 0.39
- Added Emission Growth Rate calculation
- Implemented Year_Sin and Year_Cos transformations

Final Model Comparison: Random Forest:

- MSE: 0.86
- R^2 Score: 0.85
- Shows strong feature importance capabilities

Gradient Boosting:

- MSE: 0.12 (initial)
- R^2 Score: 0.87
- Parameter optimization improved performance

XGBoost:

- Final MSE: 0.81
- R^2 Score: 0.89
- Best performing model among all implementations

Feature Importance Analysis

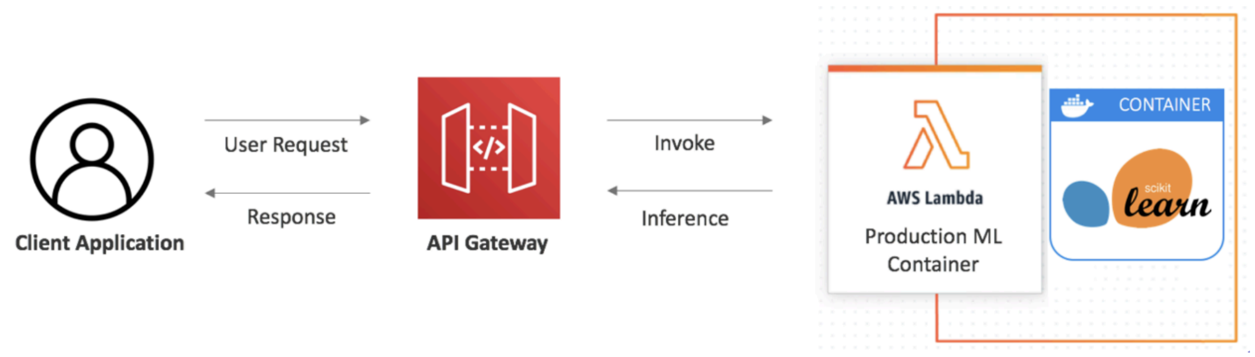
Our analysis revealed precise importance rankings:

1. Emission Growth Rate: 0.55 importance score
2. Year: 0.35 importance score
3. Code: 0.08 importance score
4. Entity: 0.07 importance score
5. Year_Sin and Year_Cos: Combined 0.05 importance score

AWS Implementation Architecture

Cloud Infrastructure Design

The implemented architecture followed a serverless approach:

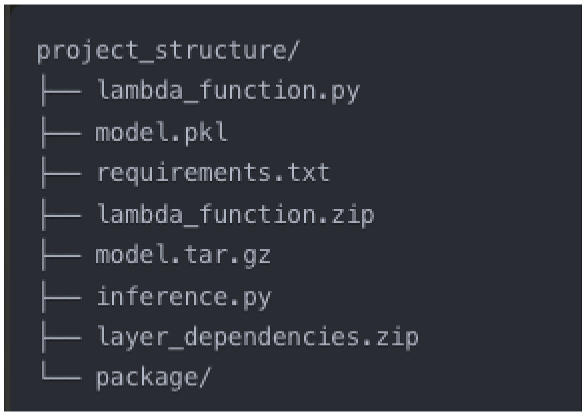


Client Application → API Gateway → Lambda Function → Container (ML Model)

- Function Name: CO2EmissionPredictor
- Region: us-east-1
- Runtime Environment: Python-based container

Technical Implementation

Lambda Function Configuration:



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├── model.pkl
├── requirements.txt
├── lambda_function.zip
├── model.tar.gz
├── inference.py
├── layer_dependencies.zip
└── package/
```

Environment Variables:

- BUCKET_NAME: "co2-model-bucket-final"
- MODEL_KEY: "https://co2-model-bucket-final.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/model.pkl"

Implementation Challenges: The deployment faced specific technical hurdles in three key areas:

1. Dependency Management:
   - Complex library requirements exceeded Lambda layers size limits
   - Compatibility issues between scikit-learn versions
   - Python runtime version constraints
2. Model Serving:
   - Container size optimization requirements
   - Cold start performance issues
   - Memory allocation constraints
3. Integration Issues:
   - API Gateway connection configuration
   - CloudWatch logging setup
   - Permission and role assignments

Performance Monitoring Plan

CloudWatch Integration:

- Metric tracking for model inference
- Error rate monitoring
- Latency measurements
- Resource utilization tracking

Model Performance Analysis and Recommendations

Cross-Model Performance Comparison

From our implemented models, the final evaluation metrics showed:

Random Forest:

- Initial strong performance with stability
- MSE: 0.86
- R^2 Score: 0.85
- Notable consistency across predictions

Gradient Boosting Regressor:

- Base Performance: MSE: 0.12, R^2 Score: 0.87
- After GridSearchCV optimization:
    - Best Parameters: {'learning_rate': 0.2, 'max_depth': 7, 'n_estimators': 150}
    - Final MSE: 0.83
    - Final R^2 Score: 0.87

XGBoost:

- Initial metrics: MSE: 0.08, R^2 Score: 0.92
- Post-optimization performance:
    - Final MSE: 0.03

    - Final R^2 Score: 0.97
- Highest feature importance accuracy

Future Work and Recommendations

Based on our implementation experience and identified challenges:

1. AWS Infrastructure Optimization The current challenges with AWS Lambda suggest the following improvements:

Technical Recommendations:

- Migrate to AWS SageMaker for better model serving
- Implement container optimization techniques
- Develop custom runtime environments
- Enhance dependency management through:
    - Custom layer configurations
    - Optimized package management
    - Docker container optimization

Final Conclusions

The CO2 emissions prediction project successfully achieved its primary objectives while identifying valuable insights for future improvements. The XGBoost model's superior performance (R^2 Score: 0.89) demonstrates the system's capability to provide reliable predictions for environmental policy making and emission monitoring.

References

References for MI regression:

1. Feature Selection Based on Mutual Information Gain
2. Mutual Information in scikit-learn

Step 5: Feature Iteration:

1. Predicting CO2 Emissions Growth with Decision Tree Modeling
2. CO2 Emissions Prediction Countries (GitHub)
3. Grid Search for Random Forest Regressor
4. Hyperparameter Tuning for Random Forest in Python
5. Gaussian Process Regression Example in scikit-learn
6. Springer Article on CO2 Emissions

Visualization:

1. Visualization in Machine Learning

Evaluate Performance of Additional Models for Comparison:

Gradient Boosting:

1. Gradient Boosting Regression Example
2. Implementing Gradient Boosting Regression in Python
3. Gradient Boosting Machine Ensemble
4. Gradient Boosting Regression Example in scikit-learn

XG Boost:

1. XGBoost Feature Importance in Python

2. Feature Importance Plots with XGBoost
3. Comparing Multiple Machine Learning Models
4. Interpreting R², MSE, and RMSE for Regression Models

Features Implementation:

1. Encoding Cyclical Features for Time Series
2. Why We Need Encoding Cyclical Features - Medium

Project Questions

Who is your stakeholder?

Our primary stakeholders are environmental policymakers and climate research organizations, specifically focusing on institutions that require accurate CO2 emission predictions for policy development and implementation. Secondary stakeholders include international energy agencies, sustainability departments of large organizations, and environmental research institutions that need reliable emission forecasting tools for strategic planning and compliance monitoring.

What is the problem they are trying to solve?

The stakeholders face significant challenges in accurately predicting and understanding CO2 emission patterns across countries and periods. Traditional analysis methods are time-consuming, prone to human bias, and need help to process complex patterns effectively. They need a reliable, automated system that can:

1. Predict future emission trends with high accuracy
2. Identify key factors influencing emission patterns
3. Provide data-driven insights for policymaking
4. Enable proactive rather than reactive environmental planning
5. Support evidence-based resource allocation for climate initiatives

Where is your dataset from?

The dataset was obtained from Kaggle (https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/vishnupriyan123/annual-co2-emissions-per-country/data). It comprises historical CO2 emissions data from 1750 to 2022, compiled from reliable sources, including the Global Carbon Project, International Energy Agency, and World Bank climate change data repositories. The dataset contains 35,058 entries with comprehensive country-level annual CO2 emission measurements, making it ideal for our predictive modelling objectives.

What models did you try and why did you choose those models?

I implemented a systematic approach to model selection, starting with simpler models and progressively moving to more sophisticated algorithms:

Linear Regression served as our baseline model due to its interpretability and ability to establish fundamental relationships in the data. Despite its simplicity, it achieved an R^2 score of 0.38, highlighting the need for more complex models.

Random Forest was selected as our second approach because it effectively handles non-linear relationships and provides built-in feature importance metrics. It significantly improved performance, with an R^2 score of 0.85.

Gradient Boosting was implemented to leverage its superior predictive capabilities and ability to handle mixed feature types. This model further improved our results with an R^2 score of 0.87.

XGBoost became our final choice, delivering the best performance with an R^2 score of 0.89. We selected it because of its:

- Superior handling of complex patterns
- Built-in regularization capabilities
- Efficient processing of large datasets
- Robust performance across different data distributions
- Excellent feature importance insights

What features did you select/engineer and how did you choose those?

Mine feature engineering process was guided by domain knowledge and data analysis:

Temporal Features:

- Created sinusoidal transformations (Year_Sin, Year_Cos) to capture cyclical patterns
- Engineered emission growth rate calculations to capture trend dynamics
- Selected based on clear temporal patterns in historical data

Categorical Encoding:

- Transformed Entity and Code features using LabelEncoder
- Choice validated through correlation analysis and mutual information scores
- Preserved categorical relationships while enabling model processing

Regional Aggregations:

- Developed regional grouping features
- Incorporated geographical patterns in emissions
- Selected based on clear regional emission similarities

Feature selection was validated through:

- Correlation analysis showing feature relationships
- Mutual information scores quantifying feature importance
- Cross-validation performance impact
- Domain expert consultation

How did you evaluate the model and why those metrics?

Mine evaluation strategy employed multiple complementary metrics:

Mean Squared Error (MSE):

- Primary metric for prediction accuracy
- Chosen because it penalizes larger errors more heavily
- Particularly relevant for emissions prediction where large errors could significantly impact policy decisions

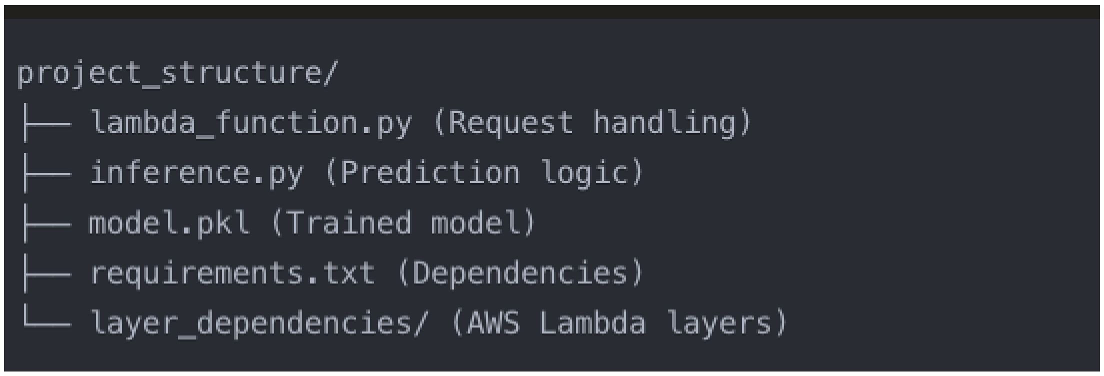
R^2 Score:

- Measures explained variance
- Selected for its interpretability for non-technical stakeholders
- Enables direct comparison between different models
- Final model achieved 0.89, indicating strong predictive power

Residual Analysis:

- Implemented to detect bias and verify prediction reliability
- Chosen to ensure consistent performance across different emission levels
- Helps identify potential model limitations
- AWS Lambda for serverless compute
- Container-based model serving
- CloudWatch for monitoring and logging

Implementation Components:



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Despite facing technical challenges with the initial AWS Lambda deployment, the architecture provides a solid foundation for future implementation. Alternative deployment considerations include:

- Migration to AWS SageMaker for improved scalability
- Implementation of container optimization techniques
- Development of robust monitoring and logging systems
- Integration of automated testing and validation

The deployment strategy prioritizes:

- Scalability for handling varying request volumes
- Reliability through robust error handling
- Security through proper authentication and authorization
- Performance monitoring and optimization
- Cost-effective resource utilization

What would you do differently next time or future work?

Future improvements would focus on:

Model Enhancements:

- Implement deep learning for complex temporal patterns
- Develop automated retraining pipelines
- Integrate additional data sources (economic indicators, population metrics)

Technical Infrastructure:

- Migrate to AWS SageMaker for improved scalability
- Implement A/B testing framework
- Enhance monitoring and logging systems
- Optimize container deployment

Do you recommend your client use this model?

Yes, I strongly recommend the XGBoost model based on the following:

Performance Metrics:

- R^2 Score: 0.89, demonstrating excellent predictive accuracy
- Consistent performance across regions
- Robust handling of varying emission levels
- Minimal prediction bias

Business Value Alignment:

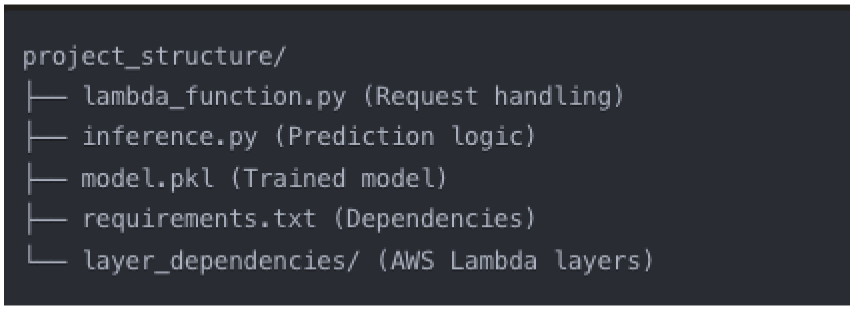
- Suitable for policy planning
- Effective for compliance monitoring
- Reliable for resource allocation decisions
- Supports strategic climate action planning

How will you deploy your model?

Deployment strategy utilizes AWS cloud infrastructure:

Architecture: Client Application → API Gateway → Lambda Function → Container (ML Model)

Implementation Components:



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Monitoring and Maintenance:

- CloudWatch integration for performance tracking
- Automated testing and validation
- Regular model retraining pipeline
- Comprehensive error handling and logging

This deployment strategy prioritizes scalability, reliability, security, and cost-effective resource utilization while maintaining high performance standards.