



MS UMass CS, 2016-18

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Machine Learning to Predict The English Premier League Winner

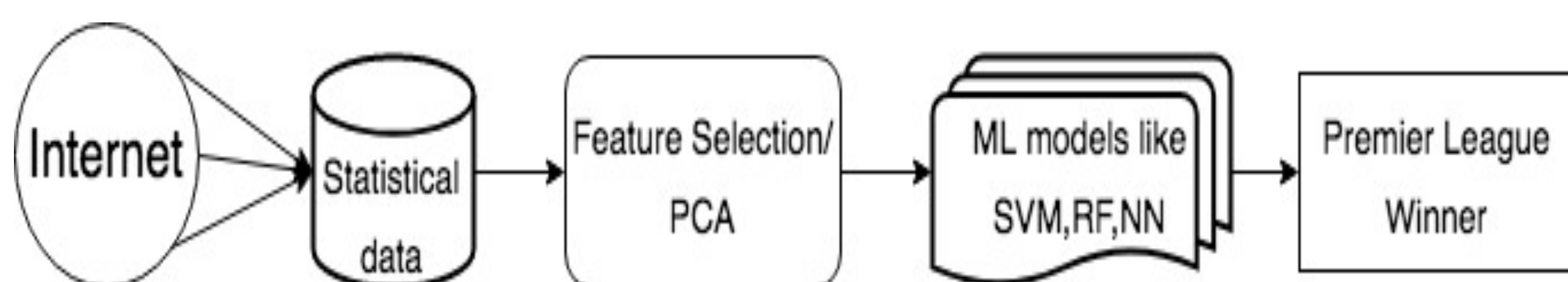
Problem

- Forecasting league winners on the basis of previous years' data.
- Identifying aspects of a team's gameplay which affect game results the most.



Solution

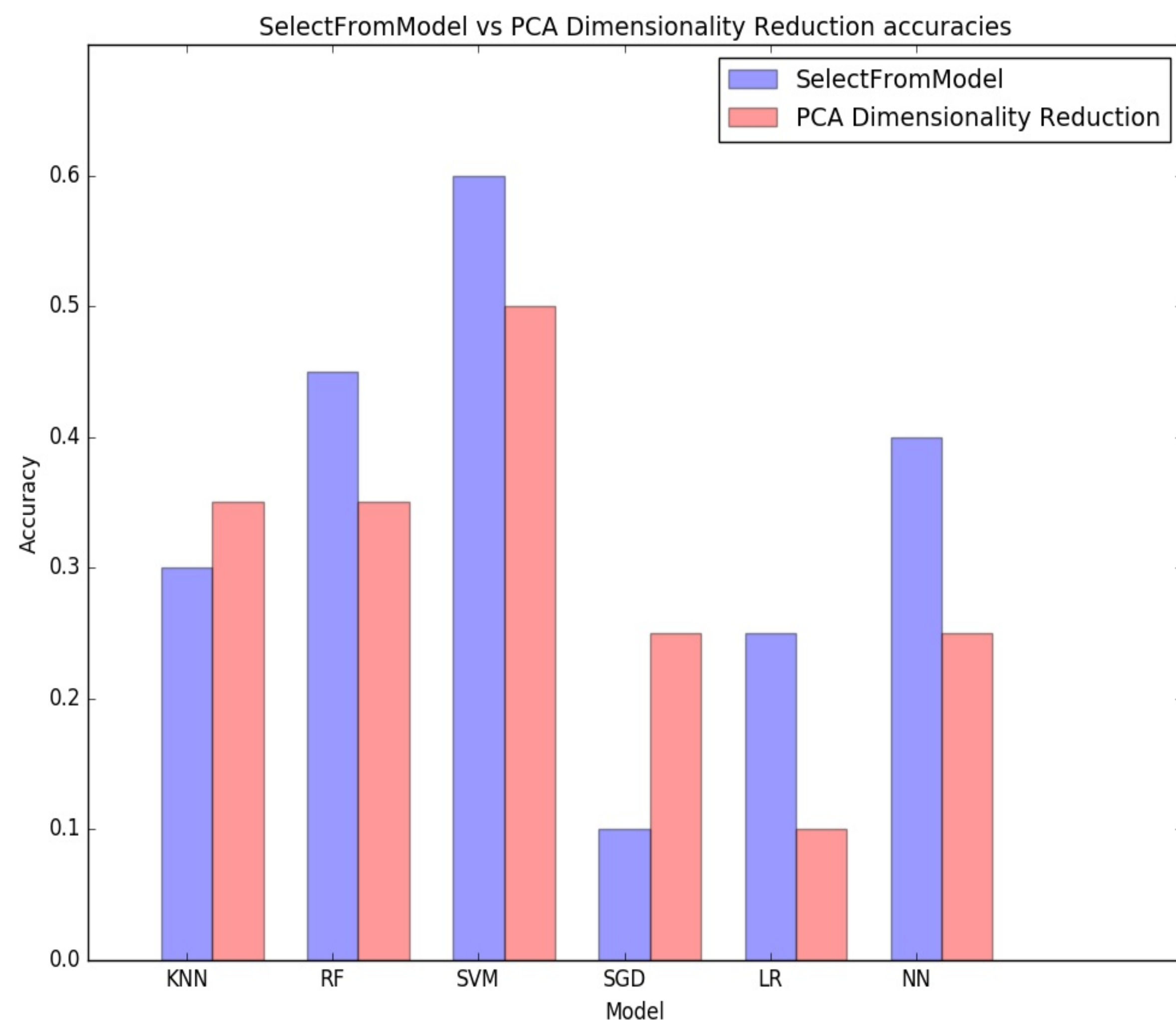
- Feature Engineering - Collate data from internet sources of not only game results per team for multiple years, but also match stats including goals scored, fouls committed, bookings etc.
- Feature Selection/PCA to focus on features that impact the result the most.
- Evaluation and analysis of various ML models for prediction across play seasons.



$$f_{SVM}(x) = \text{sign}(w^T x + b) \quad \hat{f} = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{f}_b(\hat{x})$$

Results

| Trained on seasons(starting years) | Tested on seasons | Accuracies after Feature Selection | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|----------------|
| | | KNN | RF | SVM | SGD | LR | Neural Network |
| 2003 | 2004 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.1 | 0.25 | 0.15 | 0.3 |
| 2003-2004 | 2005 | 0.25 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| 2003-2005 | 2006 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.35 |
| 2003-2006 | 2007 | 0.4 | 0.45 | 0.35 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.25 |
| 2003-2007 | 2008 | 0.4 | 0.55 | 0.5 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.5 |
| 2003-2008 | 2009 | 0.35 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 2003-2009 | 2010 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.35 | 0.15 | 0.25 | 0.35 |
| 2003-2010 | 2011 | 0.3 | 0.45 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.25 | 0.45 |
| 2003-2011 | 2012 | 0.35 | 0.5 | 0.55 | 0.35 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| 2003-2012 | 2013 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.15 | 0.5 |
| 2003-2013 | 2014 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.35 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 |



Future work

Predict the expected number of goals scored in a match depending on the previous matches of the season.

Coursework

ML, Neural Networks, NLP, Information Retrieval, Advanced Algos, Advanced Software Engineering, Databases