

# Predict Health Insurance Cost by using Machine Learning and DNN Regression Models



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**Abstract:** Insurance is a policy that eliminates or decreases loss costs occurred by various risks. Various factors influence the cost of insurance. These considerations contribute to the insurance policy formulation. Machine learning (ML) for the insurance industry sector can make the wording of insurance policies more efficient. This study demonstrates how different models of regression can forecast insurance costs. And we will compare the results of models, for example, Multiple Linear Regression, Generalized Additive Model, Support Vector Machine, Random Forest Regressor, CART, XGBoost, k-Nearest Neighbors, Stochastic Gradient Boosting, and Deep Neural Network. This paper offers the best approach to the Stochastic Gradient Boosting model with an MAE value of 0.17448, RMSE value of 0.38018 and R-squared value of 85.8295.

**Keywords:** regression, machine learning, deep neural network, forecast, insurance

## I. INTRODUCTION

we are on a planet full of threats and uncertainty. people, households, companies, properties, and property are exposed to different risk forms. and the risk levels can vary. these dangers contain the risk of death, health, and property loss or assets. life and wellbeing are the greatest parts of people's lives. but, risks cannot usually be avoided, so the world of finance has developed numerous products to shield individuals and organizations from these risks by using financial capital to reimburse them. insurance is, therefore, a policy that decreases or removes loss costs incurred by various risks[1]. concerning the value of insurance in the lives of individuals, it becomes important for the companies of insurance to be sufficiently precise to measure or quantify the amount covered by this policy and the insurance charges which must be paid for it. various variables estimates these charges. each factor of these is important. if any factor is omitted when the amounts are computed, the policy changes overall. it is therefore critical that these tasks are performed with high accuracy. as human mistakes are could occur, insurers use people with experience in this area. they also use different tools to calculate the insurance premium. ml is beneficial here. ml may generalize the effort or method to formulate the policy. these ml models can be learned by themselves. the model is trained on insurance data from the past. the requisite factors to measure the payments can then be

defined as the model inputs, then the model can correctly anticipate insurance policy costs. this decreases human effort and resources and improves the company's profitability. thus the accuracies can be improved with ml. our objective is to forecast insurance charges in this article. the value of insurance fees is based on different variables. as a result, insurance fees are continuous values. the regression is the best choice available to fulfill our needs. we use multiple linear regression in this analysis since there are many independent variables used to calculate the dependent(target) variable. for this study, the dataset for cost of health insurance is used [2]. preprocessing of the dataset done first. then we trained regression models with training data and finally evaluated these models based on testing data. in this article, we used several models of regression, for example, multiple linear regression, generalized additive model, svm, rf, decision tree (cart), xgboost, k-nearest neighbors, stochastic gradient boosting, and deep neural network. it is found that the stochastic gradient boosting provides the highest accuracy with an r-squared value of 85. 8295. the key reason for this study is to include a new way of estimating insurance costs.

## II. DATASET

To create the claim cost model predictor, we obtained the data set through the Kaggle site (2). The data set includes seven attributes see table 1; the data set is separated into two-part the first part called training data, and the second called test data; training data makes up about 80 percent of the total data used, and the rest for test data The training data set is applied to build a model as a predictor of medical insurance cost year and the test set will use to evaluate the regression model. the following table shows the Description of the Dataset.

Table I. Dataset overview

name	Description
age	Age of the client
BMI	body mass index
The Number of Kids	number of children the client have
gender	Male / Female
smoker	whether a client is a smoker or not
region	where the client lives southwest, southeast, northwest or northeast
Charges(target variable)	Medical Cost the client pay

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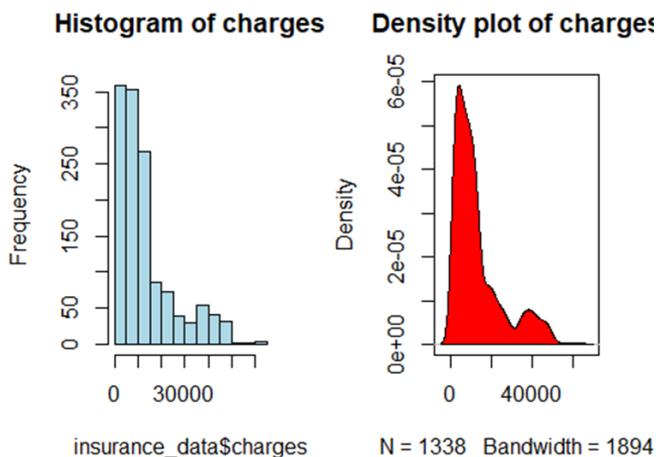
## III. DATA PREPROCESSING

The dataset includes seven variables, as shown in table 1. every one of these attributes has some contribution to estimate the cost of the insurance, which is our dependent variable. In this stage, the data is scrutinized and updated properly to efficiently apply the data to the ML algorithms. First of all, all unknown values are cleaned. The unknown numerical values are replaced with the mean. The target variable (charges) would then be examined.

Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3rd Qu.	Max.
1122	4740	9382	13270	16640	63770

**Table II descriptive statistic of charges variable.**

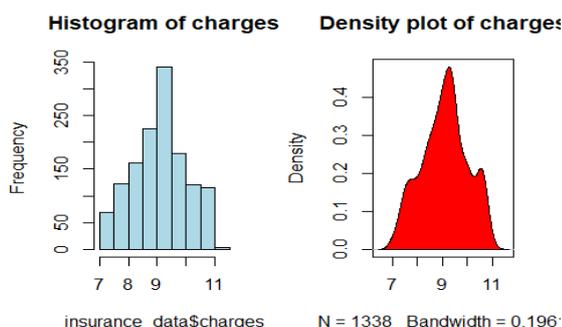
Because the mean value is greater than the median, as shown in Table II, this implies that the distribution of health insurance charges is right-skewed. We can confirm this visually using a histogram or density plot as shown in figure I:



**Figure I: histogram or density plot for the dependent variable (charges) shows the medical insurance costs distributed have been skewed to the right.**

And In regression situations, highly skewed data can result in a poorly fitting model. And in this case, the log (natural logarithm) transformation can often be used to normalize highly skewed data.

So The log transfer is used to normalize the medical insurance costs. And The following plot shows the medical insurance cost after transformation:



**Figure II: the medical insurance cost after transformation:**

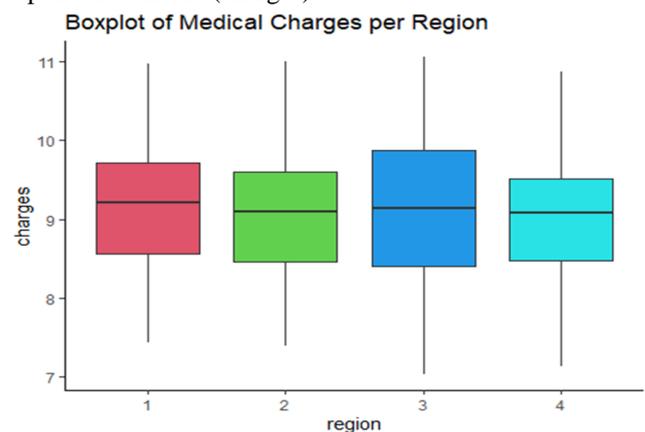
Lastly, the categorical variables are translated into numeric or binary values to represent either 0 or 1. For example, instead of "SEX" with males or females, the "Male" variable would

be true (1) if the person is male. And "female" would be (0) see table III; following this phase now, we can apply this data to all regression models used in this study.

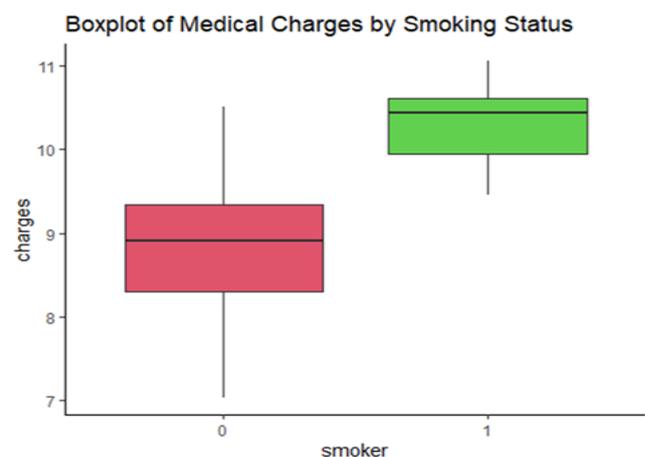
**Table III: categorical variables after translated into numeric or binary values**

name	Description
age	Age of the client
BMI	body mass index
The Number of Kids	number of children the client have
gender	Male / Female 1=Male 0=Female
smoker	whether a client is a smoker or not 1=yes 0=no
region	where the client lives 1= southwest 2= southeast 3= northwest 4= northeast
Charges(target variable)	Medical Cost the client pay

Now we examine the other independent variables with the dependent variable (charges).



**Figure III**



**Figure IV**

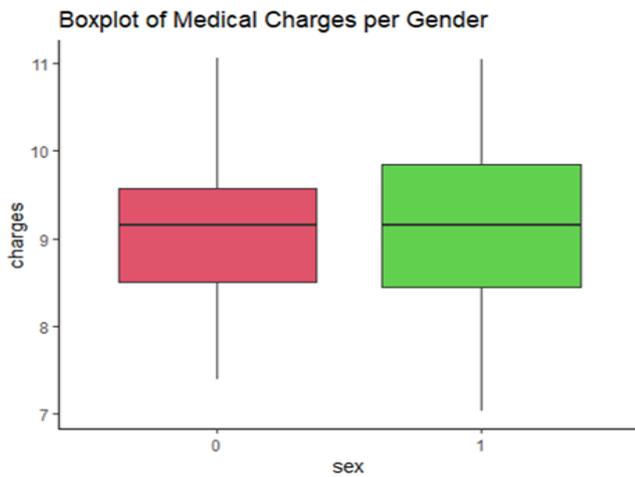


Figure V

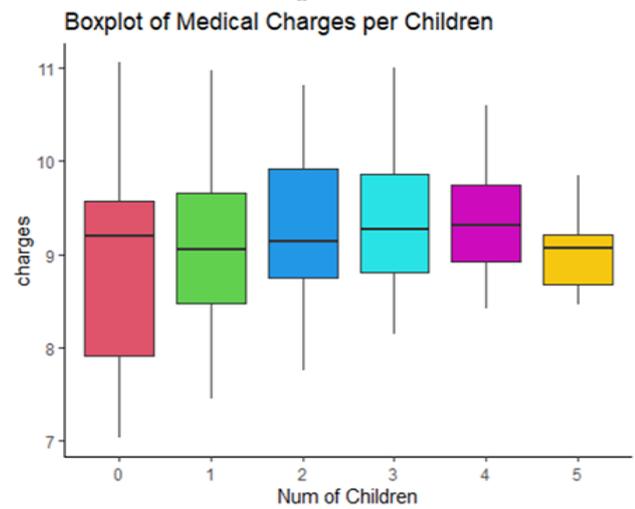


Figure VI

Figure III shows the impact of the region variable on charges; Figure IV shows the impact of the smoking variable on charges, charges, and Figure V shows the impact of gender variable on charges, and Figure VI shows the impact of the number of children on charges. Based on figures III, IV, V, and VI, we can say that region does not have much impact on medical cost. And smokers spend a lot more on medical costs. Charges are not affected by Gender. People with two children have more medical expenses. In contrast, People with Five children have fewer expenses.

Then we Check the correlation between variables.

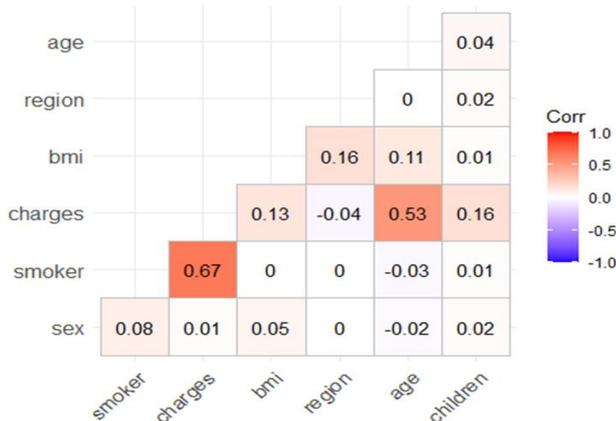


Figure VII: correlation between variables.

Figure VII show that Variables that most influence charges are smoker, age, and BMI.

#### IV. RELATED WORKS

##### A. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this section, research efforts from the exploration of information and machine learning techniques are discussed. Several papers have discussed the issue of claim prediction. Jessica Pesantez-Narvaez suggested, "Predicting motor insurance claims using telematics data" in 2019. This research compared the performance of logistic regression and XGBoost techniques to forecast the presence of accident claims by a small number and results showed that because of its interpretability and strong predictability[3], logistic regression is an effective model than XGBoost.

system proposed by Ranjodh Singh and others in 2019, this system takes pictures of the damaged car as inputs and produces relevant details, such as costs of repair to decide on the amount of insurance claim and locations of damage. Thus the predicted car insurance claim was not taken into account in the present analysis but was focussed on calculating repair costs[4]. Oskar Sucki 2019, The purpose of this research is to study the prediction of churn. Random forests were considered to be the best model (74 percent accuracies). In some fields, the dataset had missing values. Following an analysis of the distributions, the decision has been taken to substitute the missing variables with additional attributes suggesting that this data does not exist [5]. This is permitted only if the data is absolutely randomly lost, and so the missing data mechanism by which the appropriate approach to data processing is decided has first to be established[6][7] In 2018, Muhammad Arief Fauzan et al. In this paper, the exactness of XGBoost is applied to predict statements. Compare the output with the performance of XGBoost, a collection of techniques e.g., AdaBoost, Random Forest, Neural Network. XGBoost offers better Gini structured accuracy. Using publicly accessible Porto Seguro to Kaggle datasets. The dataset includes huge quantities of NaN values but this paper manages missing values by medium and median replacement. However, these simple, unprincipled methods have also proven to be biased[7]. They, therefore, concentrate on exploring the methods ML that are highly appropriate for the problems of several missing values, such as XGboost[8]. G. Kowshalya, M. Nandhini. in 2018. Three classifiers have been developed in this study to predict and estimate fraudulent claims and a percentage of premiums for the various customers based upon their personal and financial data. For classification, the algorithms Random Forest, J48, and Naïve Bayes are chosen. The findings show that Random Forest exceeds the remaining techniques depending on the synthetic dataset. This paper therefore does not cover insurance claim forecasts, but rather focuses on false claims [9]. The above previous works did not consider both predicted the cost or claim severity, they only make a classification for the issues of claims (whether or not a claim was filed for that policyholder) in this study we focus on advanced statistical methods and machine learning algorithms and deep neural network for predict the cost of health insurance.

## B. Regression

The regression analysis is a predictive method that explores the relationship between a dependent (target) and the independent variable(s) (predictor). This technology is used to forecasting, estimate model time series, and find the causal effect relationship among the variables. In this analysis, for example, I want to analyze the relationship between insurance cost (target variable) and six independent variables based on (age, BMI, child number, individual living area, or sex and whether the customer is a smoking person).on the basis of a regression.

The regression analysis estimates the relationship between two or more variables, as stated previously. I used different regression models to estimate health insurance costs on the basis of six independent variables, and by using this regression, we can forecast future health insurance fees based on current and past data. There are several advantages of using regression analysis as follows:

- It demonstrates the essential relationships between the dependent and independent variables.

- It shows the effect intensity on the dependent variable of several independent variables.

Analysis of regression also helps one to compare the results of measured variables at various scales, such as independent variable and dependent variable effects. These advantages allow market researchers, data analysts, and data scientists to remove and determine the best range of variables for predictive model .

## V. REGRESSION MODELS

### 1) Multiple Linear Regression.

In practice, we often have more than one predictor. For example, with the data set used in this study, we may wish to understand if independent variables (6 independent variables), (linearly) related to the dependent variable (charges). this is referred to as the multiple linear regression (MLR) model [10]. An MLR model with  $t$  independent features  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_t$ , and  $Y$  results can be calculated as in the following equation

$$Y = \alpha_0 X_0 + \alpha_1 X_1 + \alpha_2 X_2 + \dots + \alpha_t X_t + u$$

In the above equation,  $u$  is the residual regression while  $\alpha$  is the weight of each independent variable or parameter assigned.

### 2) Generalized Additive Model (GAM)

Generalized additive models are incorporated into the actuary toolkit to deal flexibly with continuous functionality. The continuous features in this setting insert the model into a semi-parametric additive predictor. The impact of the policyholder's age, vehicle power or amount insured may be modeled by GAMs in property and casualty insurance. GAMs also allow actuaries to evaluate geographical risk variances, taking into account the potential interaction of continuous characteristics. Other experiences in the data usually include age, power and gender, and age in engine insurance. You can also be caught by GAMs.[11]

### 3) Random Forest

Random forests reflect a shift to the bagged decision trees that create a broad number of decorrelated trees so that predictive efficiency can be improved further. They are a very popular 'off-the-box' or off-the-shelf learning algorithm, with good predictive performance and relatively few hyperparameters.

There are several implementations of random forests that exist, but the Leo Breiman algorithm (Breiman 2001)[12] is now largely authoritative. Random forests create an average predictive value as a result throughout the regression of individual trees. Random forests resolve to overfit [10]. As in the following equation , a random model for forest regressors can be expressed.

$$g(x) = f_0(x) + f_1(x) + f_2(x) + \dots + f_n(x)$$

where  $g$  is the final model that is the sum of all models. Each model  $f(x)$  is a decision tree.

### 4) XGBoost.

Recently a new ensemble learning software named XGBoost has been proposed[13]. Which is a new tree-enhancing model that provides effective out-of-core learning and sparse memory. XGBoost is therefore a supervised learning algorithm, which would be extremely useful for argument prediction issues with broad training data and missing values. Missing values can still not be managed by the most popular approaches, such as random forests and neural networks. Methods require additional frameworks to manage the missing values. The power of XGBoost improves the use of the tool in many other applications.

For example, in direct-diffuse solar separation, Aler et al. [14] Developed two versions of XGBoost. The first one is an indirect model, which uses XGBoost to learn solar radiation separation models from various literature sources in a data set from traditional level 1 instruction models. Another model is a direct model that straightforwardly suits XGboost in a dataset. An Additional case is [15], which uses XGBoost to recommend things to a user using functions derived from the pair of users using complicated feature engineering in the recommendation framework. In this study, we analyze XGBoost as a predictor model for the medical insurance cost.

### 5) Support Vector Machine

SVMs can be generalized to problems with regression (i.e., when the outcome is continuous such as our target variable in our study ). Essentially, SVMs are seeking a hyperplane in an extended function space that usually results in a nonlinear decision limit with strong generalization efficiency in the original feature space. Specific functions called kernel functions are used to build this extended, separated functionality.

### 6) K-Nearest Neighbors

K-NN is a very simple predictive model that predicts values on the basis of their "likelihoods" from other values. Contrary to most other machine learning approaches, KNN is dependent on memory and cannot be summed up as a closed algorithm. This implies that the training data are required during operations and forecasts are produced immediately from the training data relations. KNNs are additionally identified as lazy learning[16] and can also be inefficient computationally. Nevertheless, KNNs have succeeded in several market problems [17][18].

### 7) Stochastic GBMs

Gradient boosting machines (GBMs) are an extremely common ML regression model. Whereas random forests construct a group of independent deep trees, GBMs construct a set of shallow trees Each tree learns and develops compared to the prior one.

While shallow trees are feeble forecasting predictive models, they can be "boosted" to create a strong committee, which often is difficult to tackle with other algorithms if properly tuned. A significant observation from Breiman [19][20] was that the training of algorithms on a random training subsample provided more reductions in the tree correlation and thus enhanced predictive accuracy. The same logic was used by Friedman (2002)[21] and the boosting algorithm upgraded accordingly. This procedure is called a stochastic gradient boosting.

8) *Decision trees*

DTs are straightforward, very popular [22], fast-training, and easy to read models with comparative or other methods of learning from the data. They are fairly competent but vulnerable to overfitting in their predictions. They can be strengthened by improving their performance [23].

Different models of DTs, CART, C4.5, etc. are available [24]. and CART (Regression Trees) will be used for this analysis

9) *Deep Neural Networks*

ML algorithms generally look for the optimum representation of data in the form of an objective function using a feedback signal. However, most ML algorithms can only use a maximum of two layers of data transformation to learn output representation. We're calling these shallow models because they use only 1–2 functional space representations. As the sets of data continue to grow in the size of the space, it is not always possible to find the optimal representation of output with a shallow model. Deep learning offers a multi-layer approach that generally takes place via a multi-layered neural network. Deep neural networks (DNNs), like other machine learning algorithms, make learning by mapping functions to targets through simple data transformations and feedback indicators, DNNs emphasize learning different layers of meaningful representations. Although it is a daunting topic, the overall principle is simple and has shown great success in a variety of problems (25). A neural network of more than 3 layers is known to be "deep" (Fig. VIII)

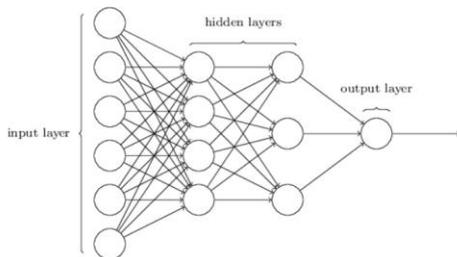


Fig. VIII. Deep Neural Network.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

The objective of the study is to predictive the insurance cost based on age, BMI, child number, the region of the person living, sex, and whether a client is smoking or not. These features contribute to our target variable prediction of insurance costs. For the measurement of the cost of insurance, several regression models are applied in this study. The dataset is split into two sections. One part for model training and the other part for model evaluation or testing. In this study, the data set is separated into two-part the first part is called training data and the second called test data, training data makes up about 80 percent of the total data used, and the rest for test data. Every one of these models is trained with the training data part and then evaluated with the test

data[26–28]. For this study, R x64 4.0.2 is used for applying these models. We used two main libraries are CART and Keras for ML and deep learning models. And we used Mean absolute error (MAE), root mean squared error (RMSE) and R-squared As a standard for evaluating these models The Mean Absolute Error (MAE) is the difference between the original and forecast values obtained by averaging the absolute difference over the data set.

$$MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N |\check{Y} - Y|$$

The RMSE of the disparity between the expected values and the real values is determined as the square root. For an accurate forecast, the RMSE must be low so there would be less variance among the expected values and the real values.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N (\check{Y} - Y)^2}$$

Where N = Number of overall

observations,  $\check{Y}$  = expected insurance fee values,  $y$  = real insurance fee values.

The R-squared is often called the coefficient of decision. The proportion of variance is estimated from the independent variables in the dependent variable.

Explained variance

R-squared = **Total variance**

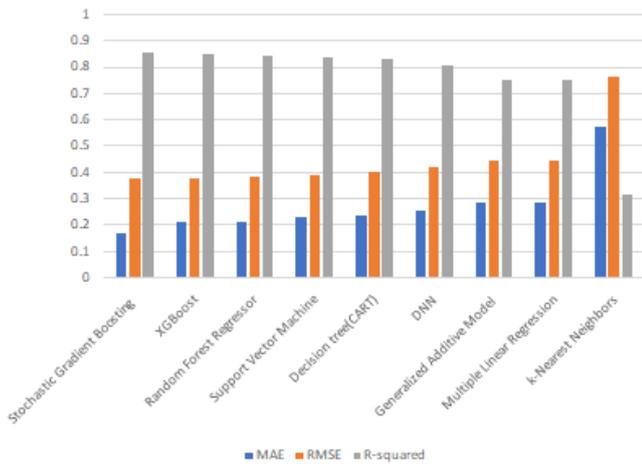
The more R-squared, the better the model output, and indicates that the model deviates less from real values. A R-squared score of 1 indicates that it suits perfectly.

To evaluate the performance of various machine learning algorithms (Multiple Linear Regression, Generalized Additive Model, SVM, CART, RF, XGBoost, k-Nearest Neighbors, Stochastic Gradient Boosting, and Deep Neural Network All of these models are trained on the basis of training data and tested on test data. Mean absolute error, RMSE, and R-squared for each of these models are measured. And Table IV displays the results.

Table IV: model performance

Algorithm used	MAE	RMSE	R-squared
Stochastic Gradient Boosting	0.17448	0.380189	0.858295
XGBoost	0.213859	0.382509	0.853653
Random Forest Regressor	0.215625	0.388319	0.849299
Support Vector Machine	0.234765	0.394699	0.842307
Decision tree(CART)	0.240118	0.403336	0.833493
DNN	0.254768	0.421432	0.809799
Generalized Additive Model	0.289473	0.445469	0.757636
Multiple Linear Regression	0.28636	0.449725	0.755813
k-Nearest Neighbors	0.574117	0.766835	0.318513

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**Fig.IX**

The graph in Fig.IX highlight the comparison between the models, on various performance measures. (MAE, RMSE, R-squared). shows that the best model is Stochastic Gradient Boosting following by XGBoost while the worst model is k-Nearest Neighbors.

## VII. CONCLUSION

The research uses various machine learning regression models and deep neural networks to forecast charges of health insurance based on specific attributes, on medical cost personal data set from Kaggle.com. The findings are summarized in Table IV. shows that Stochastic Gradient Boosting offers the best efficiency, with an RMSE value of 0.380189, an MAE value of 0.17448, and an accuracy of 85.82. Stochastic gradient boosting can therefore be used in the estimation of insurance costs with better performance than other regression models. Forecasting insurance costs based on certain factors help insurance policy providers to attract consumers and save time in formulating plans for every individual. Machine learning can significantly minimize these individual efforts in policymaking, as ML models can do cost calculation in a short time, while a human being would be taking a long time to perform the same task. This will help businesses improve their profitability. The ML models can also manage enormous amounts of data.

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