Hello Ashish,

I like how you explained omitted variable bias using your road trip example. It actually felt very relatable to me because I have been in similar situations where we planned trips without fully considering unexpected factors like the weather. I could clearly picture how the snowy conditions in Kansas and New Mexico messed up your whole timing, and it made me think about how often we assume everything will go as planned when we rely on simple models (Frost, n.d.).

The way you connected the missing variable (winter weather) directly to the delay and how it affected your fuel, food, and rest stops made the issue very clear. It also reminded me of my own experience while working on fraud detection, where we initially missed including some key data points and later realized they were crucial for improving our model. It is interesting how, whether it is a machine learning model or just trip planning, leaving out important variables can make a big difference.

Do you think, if you were to plan a similar trip again, you would try to build in extra time, maybe even create a small checklist of things to check like weather data, or would you also consider adding a plan B for such trips? I think that would be helpful, and I will probably do the same next time.

Thanks for sharing your experience!

All The Best!

Avinash

References

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