

Data 2010 Project

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Introduction

Obesity is a chronic disease that is defined by having excessive amount of body fat. It increases the risk of other diseases and health problems including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and certain cancers. First world countries are experiencing an epidemic of obesity in recent years. This includes Canada, which reported a 30% obesity rate out of all Canadian adults, an increase from the 21% reported in 2003 [2]. There must be a change and this includes diagnosing obesity early on for people and providing the preventative therapies to decrease body fat percentage. This involves measuring levels of obesity in people.

There are many different tools for measuring obesity levels, these include the body mass index, waist-to-hip ratio, skin fold thickness, and other more costly and intense body fat measuring procedures. The most common measure is the body mass index, BMI for short, which is calculated by using an individuals weight and height, with the following formula: $BMI = \frac{weight}{height^2}$. However in many cases the height and weight of individuals are not available in the diagnosing of obesity level.

In this paper we investigate different models that can be to predict obesity levels based on other variables other than height and weight. The models will be based on the following variables.

We build various regression models with the target variable being BMI and using the rest of the variables in the dataset to see if we are able to predict obesity with the lifestyle of a person. We end up using Linear, Lasso, and Ridge regression to build our models and calculate the root mean squared error (RMSE).

We then build classification models including...

- Talk about our data and preprocessing stuff

Methods

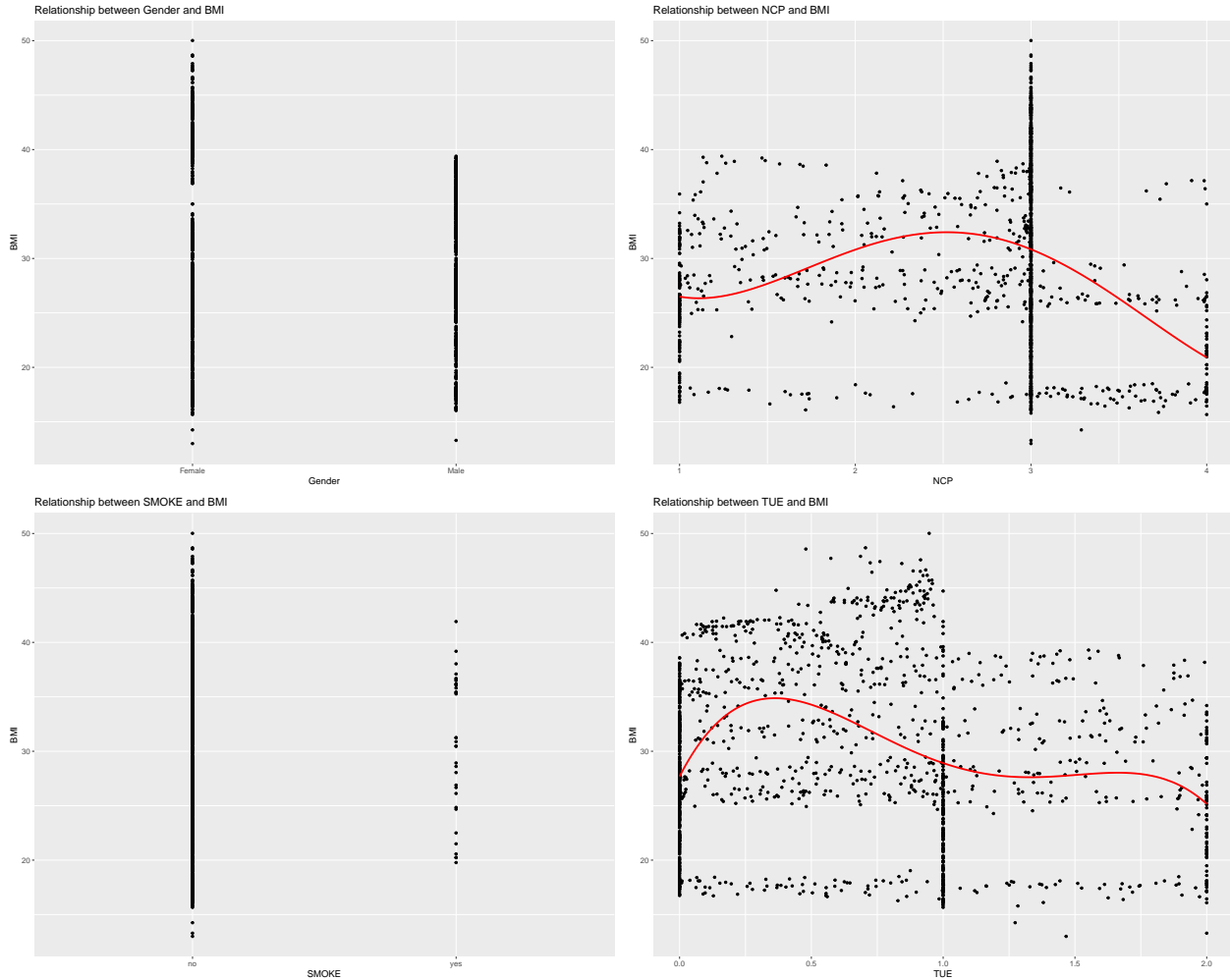
Regression

We decide to model many forms of regression on our data to calculate RMSE and see how far off predicted values would be from observed values for this obesity dataset. We first started off by performing standard Linear regression with BMI where $BMI = \frac{weight}{height^2}$, on every variable that was in the dataset (aside from height and weight because that is what is used in BMI). For the categorical variables we had to factor them before performing regression because otherwise we would not be able to test them. These are the RMSE values that we found for every variable in the dataset.

1. *Gender* = 7.939414
2. *Age* = 8.178174
3. *History of overweight* = 9.08678
4. *Freq consumption of high caloric food* = 8.134233
5. *Freq consumption of vegetables* = 8.167971
6. *Number of main meals* = 7.932018
7. *Consumption of food between meals* = 8.807099
8. *Smoke* = 7.929959
9. *Consumption of water* = 8.065398
10. *Calorie consumption monitoring* = 8.106003
11. *Freq of physical activity* = 8.109581

12. *Time using electronics* = 7.973657
13. *Consumption of alcohol* = 8.130043
14. *Transportation used* = 8.07459

Noticing that *Gender*, *Number of main meals*, *Smoke* and *Time using electronics* were the variables that lead to the lowest RMSE values (under 8), we decided to graph these variables with cubic regression for visual input. Here are those graphs.



After some consideration, we decided to try spline regression on the 2 numerical variables out of these 4 to see if that would improve the RMSE values any further. These were the results:

1. *Number of main meals* = 8.540398
2. *Time using electronics* = 8.488051

It turns out that spline regression did not improve the error in our case so we had to try something else.

We moved to attempt Lasso regression to yet again try and improve our values. When performing Lasso regression on the 4 original variables that all had RMSE under 8, this is what we got with a lambda of 1.2.

RMSE = 7.968656

This is a good RMSE value but it is not lower than any 1 of the 4 original RMSE values gained from using Linear regression. Because we still can not seem to get it lower than the original 4, we decided to do Lasso regression with all of the variables and this was the result with a lambda of 4:

RMSE = 7.968656

This turned out to give us the exact same RMSE. Maybe we could try and use less variables? This is with just the Gender and SMOKE variable at the lambda of 0.27.

RMSE = 7.96817

The result is just slightly lower than the previous 2 Lasso regression attempts so it seems like we may be at a dead end here. But we tried one more just to see what happened. Ridge regression gave us similar RMSE values to Lasso but just slightly higher no matter what variables we used in the model. The range of BMIs that we acquired from the dataset are from 12.99 to 50.01. So the RMSE floating around 8 is not the end of the world but we definitely wish that we could improve it more.

Next we wanted to try to see if there was any evidence of multicollinearity. So we created a correlation matrix and scanned the values to see if there was anything close enough to 1 or -1 to be considered evidence of multicollinearity, but there was nothing close enough to prove this so we state that there is no multicollinearity in this dataset.

Classification

Results

- Restate results from the methods section, talk about what they mean and why they happened

Conclusions

- Essay type write up for the conclusion

References

1. [Estimation of Obesity Levels Based On Eating Habits and Physical Condition](#)
2. [An overview of weight and height measurements on World Obesity Day](#)