Multivariate K-Nearest Neighbors: Takeaways

by Dataquest Labs, Inc. - All rights reserved © 2020

Syntax

• Displaying the number of non-null values in the columns of a DataFrame:

```
dc_listings.info()
```

• Removing rows from a DataFrame that contain a missing value:

```
dc_listings.dropna(axis=0, inplace=True)
```

• Normalizing a column using pandas:

```
first_transform = dc_listings['maximum_nights'] - dc_listings['maximum_nights'].mean()
normalized_col = first_transform / first_transform.std()
```

• Normalizing a DataFrame using pandas:

```
normalized_listings = (dc_listings - dc_listings.mean()) / (dc_listings.std())
```

• Calculating Euclidean distance using SciPy:

```
from scipy.spatial import distance
first_listing = [-0.596544, -0.439151]
second_listing = [-0.596544, 0.412923]
dist = distance.euclidean(first_listing, second_listing)
```

• Using the KNeighborsRegressor to instantiate an empty model for K-Nearest Neighbors:

```
from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsRegressor
knn = KNeighborsRegressor()
```

• Using the fit method to fit the K-Nearest Neighbors model to the data:

```
train_df = normalized_listings.iloc[0:2792]

test_df = normalized_listings.iloc[2792:]

train_features = train_df[['accommodates', 'bathrooms']]

train_target = train_df['price']

knn.fit(train_features, train_target)
```

• Using the predict method to make predictions on the test set:

```
predictions = knn.predict(test_df[['accommodates', 'bathrooms']])
```

• Calculating MSE using scikit-learn:

```
from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error

two_features_mse = mean_squared_error(test_df['price'], predictions)
```

Concepts

- To reduce the RMSE value during validation and improve accuracy, you can:
 - Select the relevant attributes a model uses. When selecting attributes, you want to make sure you're not working with a column that doesn't have continuous values. The process of selecting features to use in a model is known as feature selection.
 - Increase the value of k in our algorithm.
- We can normalize the columns to prevent any single value having too much of an impact on distance. Normalizing the values to a standard normal distribution preserves the distribution while aligning the scales. Let \mathbf{x} be a value in a specific column, $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ be the mean of all values within a single column, and $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ be the standard deviation of the values within a single column, then the mathematical formula to normalize the values is as follows:

$$x = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

- The distance.euclidean() function from scipy.spatial expects:
 - Both of the vectors to be represented using a list-like object (Python list, NumPy array, or pandas Series).
 - Both of the vectors must be 1-dimensional and have the same number of elements.
- The scikit-learn library is the most popular machine learning library in Python. Scikit-learn contains functions for all of the major machine learning algorithms implemented as a separate class. The workflow consists of four main steps:
 - Instantiate the specific machine learning model you want to use.
 - Fit the model to the training data.
 - Use the model to make predictions.
 - Evaluate the accuracy of the predictions.

- One main class of machine learning models is known as a regression model, which predicts numerical value. The other main class of machine learning models is called classification, which is used when we're trying to predict a label from a fixed set of labels.
- The fit method accepts list-like objects while the predict method accepts matrix like objects.
- The mean_squared_error() function takes in two inputs:
 - A list-like object representing the actual values.
 - A list like object representing the predicted values using the model.

Resources

- Scikit-learn library
- K-Neighbors Regressor



Takeaways by Dataquest Labs, Inc. - All rights reserved © 2020