# Movie Gross Revenue Estimation

7th Semester Project



Department of Information Technology Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh(U.P)

# Project Mentor and Guide Dr. Sonali Agarwal

### Candidate's Declaration

We hereby declare that the project entitled "Movie Gross Revenue Estimation" submitted by us to Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad as a 7th Semester Project is a an authenticated record of our original project work carried out of us under the guidance of Dr. Sonali Agarwal. Due references and acknowledgments have been made in the text to all the resources and material used. We assure that this report is free from plagiarism and all the work was done was done in full compliance with the requirements and constraints of the prescribed curriculum.

Date: November 28, 2016

Authors: Abhishek Kumar Agrawal(IIT2013128) Shubham Bhendarkar (IIT2013172) Shaiwal Sachdev (IIT2013196)

### Supervisor's Certificate

This is to certify that the Project entitled "Movie Gross Revenue Estimation" is a bonafide record of research project by Shaiwal (IIT2013196), Abhishek (IIT2013128) and Shubham (IIT2013172) under my supervision and submitted to Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad as a 7th Semester Project.

Date: November 28, 2016

(Dr. Sonali Agarwal)

### Acknowledgement

We have taken efforts in completing this project. We sincerely appreciate the inspiration, support and guidance of all those people who have been instrumental in making this project a success. This has been possible with the co-ordination and working together as a team. Everyone in team has contributed in making this project. I am highly indebted to Dr. Sonali Agarwal for their guidance and constant supervision as well as for providing necessary information regarding the project and also for her support in completing this project.

# THE TEAM

- 1. Abhishek Kumar Agrawal(IIT2013128)
- 2. Shubham Bhendarkar (IIT2013172)
- 3. Shaiwal Sachdev (IIT2013196)

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### Introduction

Film industry is a big business in United States. It is one of the biggest player in the entertainment industry. Predicting the gross revenue of a movie beforehand is required by a lot of people. Till now there is no computational model that can effectively predict the Gross revenue movie will be able to collect. This depends on a lot of factors like release date, number of available theatre screens, budget of the film, cast, MPAA rating , release year, etc.

We can develop a model by using the history revenue data for previous year movies and predict the gross revenue, movie will be able to get by using different set of features.

This model is useful for:

- 1. Movie producers and Production studios as by looking at estimated values of revenue, they can take different steps on deciding the budget for things like marketing, promotion, etc.
- 2. Movie theatres as they can also estimate the amount of money they will be able to collect on screening the movie.

If the estimated revenue is very low , studios may increase their promotion budget and may even think of releasing the movie outside the domestic space. Studios try to release it in more theatres , they display banners , Actors promote the movie in TV Shows, sometimes they also do publicity stunt. Overall, every movie maker wants to earn more and more money.

In this project we will collect the revenue data and other details about previous year movies and make a model that will be able to predict the gross revenue of the film.

### **Problem Definition**

The goal of this project is to develop a model that will be able to estimate the Box Office Gross Revenue of a film using the public information available after its first weekend of release.
The analysis is based on USA region only.

## Literature Survey

A Lot of factors that affect the revenue prediction have been studied by different researchers.

Do Critical Reviews Really Matter? As mentioned in [7] even though some reviewers may have different tastes than the people reading their reviews, consumers still read the reviews before going to watch the movie to know whether it is worth their money or not. This tells us that critic ratings do matter in the revenue prediction model.

Forswell in [9] collected public information available on IMDB site for movies after January 1st, 1990 and only included those having total box office revenue greater than 100,000 dollars totaling 2500 movies. He then used linear regression model using features first week end revenue, budget and number of available theatre screens. It did not give very good result and when he tried splitting the dataset, number of training samples decreased and performance was reduced.

Robert in [12] divided the set of features in simple, complex and sentiment where simple is numeric only, complex is numeric and text based and sentiment includes all. He thought that this problem can be modeled both as regression and classification. He used logistic regression for classification by making classes by dividing the range of min and max value of gross revenue into buckets. After doing more analysis he found that text and sentiment features were insufficient to predict the revenue.

Some researchers like in [3] tried to predict the revenue before release or after 1st week of revenue. They analysed different features like production budget of the film, revenue of the 1st weekend, sequel movie or not, star power, MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America film rating system) rating etc. He analysed the change in gross revenue with respect to rating of the movie. He tried to give weights to these categorical variables and used linear regression to do the prediction.

Vitelli in [15] tried to create a set of features and did extract values from graphical properties of the actor-actor, actor-movie, and movie-movie relationships.

Some tried to predict the revenue before the release and some after 1st week of release. Budget of the film seems to different effects on different genre movies. Mostly big budget films which are Action, Animation, Adventure tend to attract a large amount of audience whereas on the other hand movies which even after spending a lot of money like which are biography, drama, etc tend to earn less. This fact has been supported in [5].

Genre and revenue analysis was done. In Anast [1] who tried to showcase some relationship between genre and revenue. Prag and Casavant [2] showed a negative relationship for drama and revenue.

Pre release revenue Prediction although looks attractive but it is a very difficult

job.Extracting information from a variety of sources like blogs, youtube trailers comments, estimating the people's response before the movie is released. Use the number of viewers and users who edit the page in wikipedia was used by Marton in [8] to find or estimate the popularity parameter in his model to find the pre release revenue. To find the estimate after 1st week gives us more predictability as it is almost twenty to twenty five percent of the gross domestic revenue. It gives us insight that we will get more accurate or better results if we estimate it after 1st week of release or Post Release.

Dursun Delen in [11] used Neural Network with features like MPAA rating,genre,star value,sequel,special value but for prediction of pre-release revenue. It was used because neural networks can handle a mix of continuous and discrete values pretty well.

Some people also tried to predict the pre release box office revenue using movie scripts as in [6] and also tried using the tweets data as in [16], blog data to analyse the behavior of the people but these methods did not give satisfactory results. Thorsten in [13] also analyses the negative and postive effect of tweets on the behavior of people which in turn affects the box office revenue.

Till now everyone was concentrating on Domestic revenue only but researchers as in [4] tried to estimate the Foreign Revenue the movie will be able to collect. This depends on a lot of factors like domestic success of the movie, language adaptability, cultural differences, MPAA rating differences between domestic and foreign country.

Till now all the researchers were considering all the different factors that affect the movie success.But Thorsten in [14] did a study on inter dependence between these features whether success or effect of one feature can affect the effect of other on revenue.For example,does advertising influence the box office revenue directly by creating a media presence, or indirectly through impacting consumers quality perceptions of the movie?

Overall all the researchers tried to estimate the Gross Box office revenue movie will be able to collect. Some considered it to be regression problem and few as classification problem. None of them tried to analyse it genre specific. As if saying that all these features like MPAA rating, production budget of the film, marketing budget of the film, critic rating in the first week are not all important for all genre. Biography or Drama movie may be good spending a lot of money but would not be able to generate a lot of revenue. Likewise, only action and animation big Budget films attract a lot of audience not true for other. Some superhero movies like Super Man and others saying Big Action Movies people don't care about critic ratings they just see it. We should not consider Critic Rating in estimating Action movie revenue. And, budget of the film should not a parameter in Drama or Biography films. Talking about MPAA ratings, movies that are PG-13, R and action, adventure, horror affect the revenue. They should be considered as a parameter. Whereas movies made for children like G rated, they when released in US mostly collect almost equal amount of revenue. Here we are focusing on post release domestic revenue prediction only.

### **Dataset**

Initially we did not had the dataset so we crawled and scraped the data about different movies from different websites and merged all the information collected about each movie into one.

#### 4.1 Data

Name	Information
Total Movies Crawled	3000
Websites Used	IMDB,Rotten Tomatoes, BoxOfficeMojo, ecosia
Genre	Action, Animation, Adventure, Horror, Sci-Fi, Comedy, Music, Documentary
Business Data	Opening Weekend Revenue, Budget, Gross Total Revenue

Table 4.1: About the Data

All the data collected is then merged into one to make a database containing all the information about the movies. We also scraped the business page for each movie and collected revenue information. We are focusing on USA region only. And the gross revenue is also domestic total gross revenue for USA region only.

We collected the data for movies released 2000 to 2015 only.

#### 4.2 Field Information

#### 4.2.1 General Features

- 1. Title of the Movie
- 2. Genre of the Movie(Action, Adventure, Comedy,...)
- 3. Release Date
- 4. Total Runtime of the Movie
- 5. Year of Release
- 6. MPAA Rating(Motion Picture Association of America film)

#### 4.2.2 Important Features

- 1. Budget Of the Movie(USD)
- 2. Opening Weekend Revenue(USD)
- 3. Number Of Screens in Opening Weekend
- 4. Movie Gross Domestic Revenue(USD)

#### 4.2.3 Critic View

- 1. Rotten Tomatoes(TomatoMeter, TomatoRating)
- 2. MetaCritic(MetaScore)

#### 4.2.4 User View

- 1. From Rotten Tomatoes(UserMeter, UserRating)
- 2. From IMDB

#### 4.2.5 Popularity

- 1. From IMDB
- 2. From Rotten Tomatoes

### 4.3 Fields Description

Going through the **Critic View**, we come across TomatoMeter and TomatoRating. TomatoMeter is based on the on the published opinions of hundreds of film critics and is a trusted measurement of movie quality for millions of moviegoers.Meter represents the percentage of critic reviews that were positive that is they rated is above 5 out of 10.TomatorRating is the average critic rating on a ten point scale.MetaScore is a critic score calculated by MetaCritic. com based on critics reviews.Usually the movies called as very good movies have scores above 70.

Going through the **User View**, UserMeter is percentage of users who rated it positive. UserRating is the average user rating on a five point scale.IMDB user rating is done by users or viewers on a ten point scale.

Going through the **Popularity** section, Popularity score from Rotten Tomatoes gives us the number of users who wanted to watch the movie and those who watched and rated it.

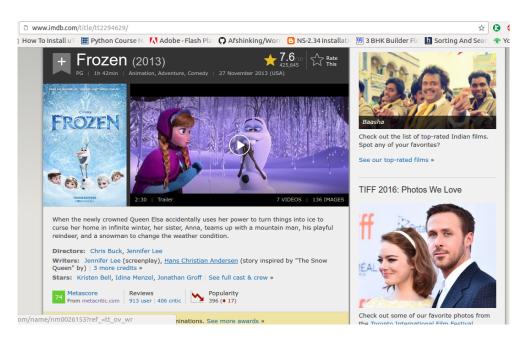


Figure 4.1: Scraping From IMDB Page (Source:IMDB)

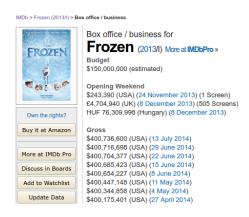


Figure 4.2: Revenue Data From Business Page (Source:IMDB)

# **Technologies**

#### 5.1 Tools Used

- 1. Scikit Learn
- 2. LaTeX
- 3. miniconda
- 4. matplotLib
- 5. BeautifulSoup
- 6. Google API
- 7. Rotten Tomatoes API

### 5.2 Languages Used

- 1. Python
- 2. Java

#### 5.3 Websites Used to Collect Data

- 1. http://www.imdb.com/
- 2. https://www.rottentomatoes.com/
- 3. https://www.ecosia.org/

# Proposed Approach

#### 6.1 Phases

The project comprises of following four phases

- 1. Data Collection
- 2. Data Cleaning(Preprocessing)
- 3. Data Transformation
- 4. Estimation Using Regression Models

### 6.2 Block diagram

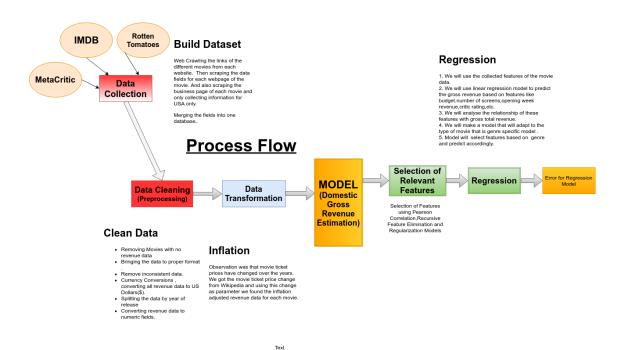


Figure 6.1: Block Diagram of project

# Phases of Project

#### 7.1 Data Collection

We crawled and scraped movie information for about 3000 movies and collected different fields from different websites. We collected the information by year of release about 200 movies per year from 2000 to 2015 . We then dumped all the information in the form of json. We then split the dataset into different subsets by the type or genre of the movie.

### 7.2 Data Cleaning

- 1. Removing Movies data with no revenue data.
- 2. Bringing the data to proper format like removing commas, dollar sign, dealing with words like "million", that is anything other than numeric data.
- 3. Dealing with Unicode characters in title of the movie.
- 4. Removing inconsistent data.
- 5. Budget of the movie was in different currencies. Currency Conversions had to be done for converting all this data to US Dollars. More than 30 currencies were found in the 3000 movies collected.
- 6. Splitting the data by year of release and genre.
- 7. Converting revenue data to numeric fields.

#### 7.3 Data Transformation

We observed that movie ticket prices have changed over the years. Due to inflation price of tickets have changed so much over the years. We got the movie ticket price change from Wikipedia. We used this change in ticket price and considered this as inflation parameter and calculated the inflation adjusted revenue data for each movie.

Ticket prices changed so rapidly with price of 5.39 USD in year 2000 to about 8.66 USD in 2016.

Year	Movie Ticket Price(USD)
2016	8.66
2015	8.43
2014	8.17
2013	8.13
2012	7.96
2011	7.93
2010	7.89
2009	7.50
2008	7.18
2007	6.88
2006	6.55
2005	6.41
2004	6.21
2003	6.03
2002	5.81
2001	5.66
2000	5.39

Table 7.1: Year vs Movie Ticket Prices(Source : Wikipedia)



Figure 7.1: Year vs Movie Ticket Prices(Source: Wikipedia)

#### 7.3.1 Standardization

Data collected about the movies like budget, opening weekend revenue, all user and critic ratings are all having different ranges. To use them together in a function we have to bring them to a same level or scale otherwise algorithm won't work properly. This process is called Feature Scaling.

This will make all the different features having different ranges to contribute proportionally to the final gross revenue. In fact the ranges are unbounded that budget of the movie or amount of gross revenue has no maximum value. After doing this all features will have zero mean and unit variance.

Reasons for using Standardization:

- 1. There is certain minimum and maximum value.
- 2. To handle outliers.

#### Method:

- 1. Calculate mean and standard deviation for each feature.
- 2. Subtract the mean from each feature.
- 3. Then divide the resultant value for each feature by its standard deviation.

#### Do this for each feature:

Formula for Standardization is:

$$x = \frac{x - mean}{Standard deviation} \tag{7.1}$$

Feature	Mean	Standard Deviation
Budget	53834656.126 USD	54320809.576 USD
Opening Weekend	17763934.998 USD	25745328.588 USD
Screens	1835.06	1367.26
MetaScore(Out of 100)	54.05	18.29
Tomato Meter(Out of 100)	53.46	28.14
Tomato Rating(Out of 10)	5.70	1.49
User Meter(Rotten)(Out of 100)	61.44	18.53
User Rating(Rotten)(Out of 5)	3.36	0.452
User Rating(IMDB)(Out of 10)	6.41	1.07
Popularity(IMDB)	2236.0	1337.78
Popularity(Rotten)	573001.0	3605809.2

Table 7.2: Statistics (Features)

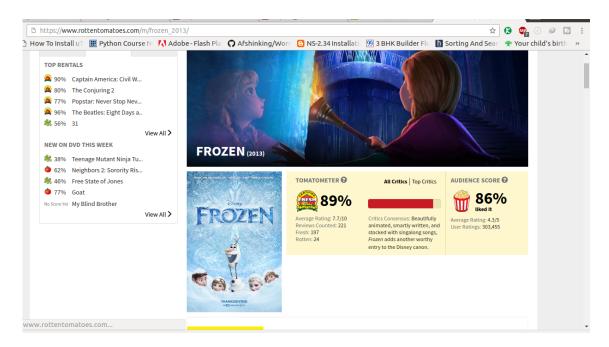


Figure 7.2: Scraping From Rotten Tomatoes Page(Source:Rotten Tomatoes)

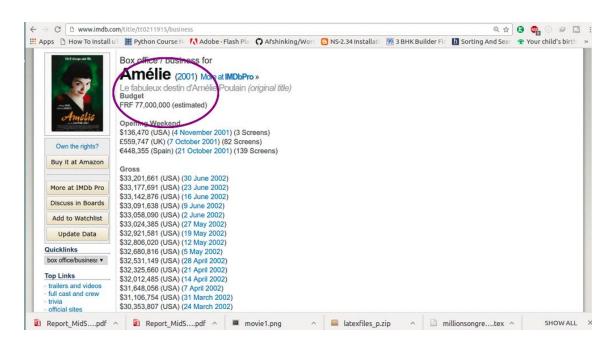


Figure 7.3: Currency Conversions and Dealing with unicode characters(Source :IMDB)

# Estimation Using Regression Models

### 8.1 Error Measurement (MAPE)

Mean absolute percentage error (MAPE), also known as mean absolute percentage deviation (MAPD) is the mean of the percentage error for each sample. Let A denote the actual value and F denote the predicted value. Let n number of test movies:

$$MAPE = \frac{100}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{A_t - F_t}{A_t}$$
 (8.1)

### 8.2 Multiple Linear Regression

Assuming linear relationship between gross revenue and other features, we thought of using multiple linear regression.

Let us use all the features into our model:

$$Y = W1 * Budget + W2 * OpenWeek + W3 * Screens + W4 * userRating + ... + b$$
 (8.2)

In [10], multiple linear regression was used and MAPE error was around 130 percent.

Approach	MAPE
Linear Regression	110

Table 8.1: Linear Regression(All movies)

### 8.3 Split on the Basis Of Genre

According to [2] journal paper , different types of movies respond to different parameters differently.

Like Budget of the movie maybe important for Action or Animation movie but not for a Horror Movie. UserRatings or UserReviews affect movies like documentary or Horror but not Adventure or Comedy movies.

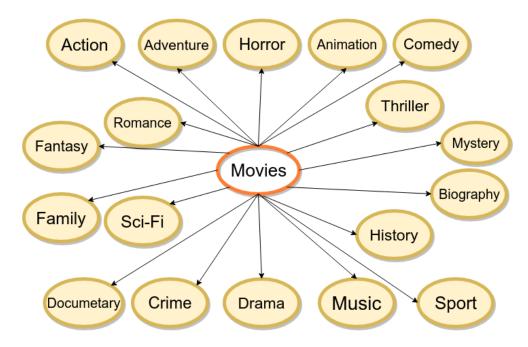


Figure 8.1: Split on the Basis Of Genre of Movie)

We thought of finding the percentage error for each genre for each combination and try to find the best set of features that describe a genre.

Following things we did:

- 1. We first split our data set on the basis on genre.
- 2. We then used feature selection algorithms for finding out the relevant features for each genre.
- 3. Thus finding out the best combination of features for each genre.
- 4. We then used multiple linear regression as our model.
- 5. Testing is done using 10 fold cross validation and finding out the mean value of 10 folds.
- 6. This way we are making a model that will change its set of input parameters required based on genre of movie .
- 7. Calculate error for each genre of movie for its best combination.

### Feature Selection

Feature Selection is used basically for two reasons:

- 1. To avoid over fitting by reducing number of features and to improve generalization of model.
- 2. To gain better understanding of features and their relationship to response variable.

#### Methods we used are:

- 1. Univariate Feature selection (Pearson correlation)
- 2. RFE (Recursive Feature Selection)
- 3. Regularized Models (Ridge and Lasso)

#### 9.0.1 Pearson correlation

In this each feature is evaluated independently with respect to the gross revenue. For understanding the relationship between different features and gross revenue. We calculated the correlation coefficient for each genre of the movie. Opening Weekend has the strongest effect on the Gross revenue. Every genre showed correlation value of above 0.6.

This just give us a general idea about how features affect the value of gross revenue. Since the features also depend on each other and there can non linear relationships. We can't depend on this correlation's result.

Gross	Budget (	Opening weekend	Screens
Rating All_genre	0.68684879	3.89918391	0.53794146
Action	0.681674	0.91297513	0.52695088
Adventure	0.65931017	0.88337025	0.47699665
Animation	0.6031126	0.87012988	0.48335138
Comedy	0.63830333	0.88483834	0.53586914
Crime	0.675029 <mark>4</mark> 3	0.90930585	0.49333845
Horror	0.51467975	0.87707169	0.42567809
Documentary	0.30213924	0.63686223	0.30255
Biography	0.46000903	0.82835511	0.59226183
Drama	0.60342484	0.83952613	0.5202131
Romance	0.63781861	0.8473114	0.49716203
Sci-Fi	0.67041803	0.96697587	0.62285413

Figure 9.1: Pearson Correlation Values

#### 9.0.2 Recursive Feature Elimination

It repeatedly constructs the regression model and dropping the worst performing feature at each step until we are left with number of desired feature. Top features will get score of 1, with the rest of the ranks spaced equally between 0 and 1 according to their rank.

```
df = df.sort()
Features souted by their rank:
[1.6, 'budget') (2.0, 'tomatoRating'), (3.0, 'userrating'), (4.0, 'imdb_rating'), (5.0, 'userreviews'), (6.0, 'screens'), (7.0, 'userMeter'),
[1.6, 'tomatoMeter'), (9.0, 'popularity'), (10.0, 'metascore')]
[1.7 | True raise False False
```

Figure 9.2: Recusrive Feature Elimination For Comedy Movies

### 9.0.3 Regularized Models

- 1. Ridge: where square of weights of coefficient is used as regularizing term in objective function.
- 2. Lasso: where absolute weight of coefficient is used as regularizing term in objective function

We applied lasso and ridge models and selected the top features with highest weight. More the weight , more is the importance of the feature.

Feature	Lasso	Ridge
Budget	0.02	0.02
Opening Weekend	1.0	1.0
Screens	0.02	0.02
MetaScore	0.15	0.17
TomatoMeter	0.18	0.18
TomatoRating	0.25	0.27
UserMeter	0.09	0.08
UserRating(Rotten)	0.0	0.2
UserRating(IMDB)	0.06	0.08
Popularity(Rotten)	0.02	0.01
Popularity(IMDB)	0.03	0.02

Table 9.1: Lasso and Rigde Regression(For Sci-Fi Movies)

#### 9.0.4 Best Combination for Each Genre

Genre	Best Combination
Action	Opening Weekend, Popularity
Comedy	Opening Weekend, Budget
Sci-Fi	Opening Weekend
Documentary	Opening Weekend, Popularity, TomatoRating, UserRating(Rotten)
Horror	Opening Weekend, User Rating

Table 9.2: Lasso and Rigde Regression(For Sci-Fi Movies)

### 9.1 Genre wise Analysis

We ran the Multiple Linear Regression Model for each genre of the movie. For testing we used 10 fold Cross validation and took the mean of the MAPE(Mean absolute Percentage Error) for each fold.

Genre	MAPE
Action	46.45
Comedy	50.26
Sci-Fi	24.20
Documentary	42.57
Horror	23.47

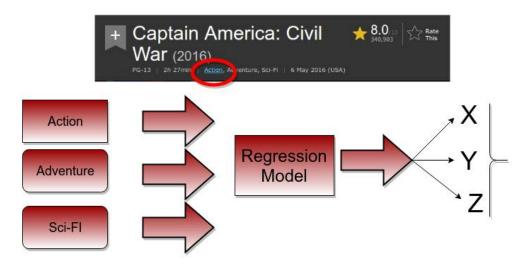
Table 9.3: Lasso and Rigde Regression(For Sci-Fi Movies)

### 9.2 Multi Genre Analysis

We found that result improved when used the linear regression model genre wise. Now to deal with movies containing more than one genre.

We will do the following things:

- 1. First we will run the linear model for each genre.
- 2. Testing is done using 10 fold cross validation.
- 3. Model will use the best combination for that genre to predict the gross revenue for that genre.
- 4. Once we find the gross revenue values corresponding to each genre, we will take the mean of these.
- 5. That would be our estimated Gross Revenue.



Expected Gross Revenue = Arithmetic /Weighted Mean of X,Y,Z

Figure 9.3: Multi Genre Method

Approach	MAPE	
Linear Regression	53.966	

Table 9.4: Linear Regression(All movies)

### 9.3 Split on the Basis of Critic Rating and Screens

After splitting the dataset on the basis of genre, we split it on the basis of Critic rating and Number of Screens.

For Critic rating, we observed there are two type of movies (Type1 and Type2). Type1, High Critic Rating > 5.

Type2, Low Critic Rating < 5.

For Number Of Screens, we observed there are two type of movies (Type3 and Type4).

Mean value of Screens Taken from the Training Set is 1835.

Type3, High Critic Rating > 1835.

Type4, Low Critic Rating < 1835.

From now:

#### Training Data: Movies from the Year 2000 to 2013 Test Data: Movies from the year 2014 to 2015 (400 in number)

Now when a test movie comes, if it lies in type1 then it will use that training set to predict the revenue. Similarly, for all types.

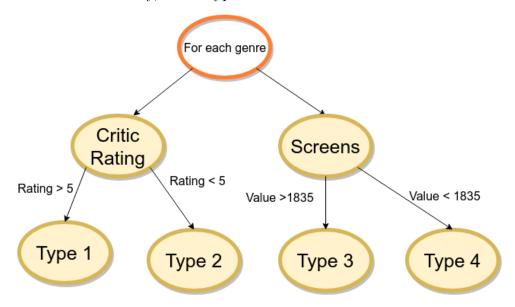


Figure 9.4: Splitting on the Basis of Critic Rating and Screens

Split	All	High	Low
Rating	34.966	42.1	24.6
Screens	39.966	26.7	127.6

Table 9.5: Linear Regression

We compared with [10] , they got 262 percent MAPE in Low Screen Movies and 37.6 in High Number of Screens.

### 9.4 Local Regression Models

After splitting them on the basis of Screens:

### 9.4.1 Linear Regression

Now with hope of further improvements we used local regression models. For each test data, we first calculated the nearest 50 neighbors or less using the euclidean distance

between the test and training vector.

We now train our multiple linear Regression model on these 50 neighbors and predict for the test data.

### 9.4.2 Decision Tree Regression

We ran the decision tree regression algorithm and trained using the 50 neighbors.

Algorithm	All	High	Low
Linear Regression	37.966	18.1	84.6
Decision Tree Regression	25.966	11.1	50.2

Table 9.6: Local Models

# Result

We tested the 400 movies of the year 2014 to 2015. We found out that after splitting the dataset on the basis of genre and further on the basis of number of screens and using the local decision tree regression,  ${\rm Error}({\rm MAPE})$  is 25.9 percent. And the error for High Screen Movies , is 11.1 percent.

# Conclusion

From the analysis done by us:

- 1. Shows the Budget Of Movie don't seem to affect the gross revenue of Horror, Documentary, Sci-Fi, History movies therefore it should not be taken as a parameter in regression while doing estimation.
- 2. Opening Weekend is the most important feature that is present in all of the genres.
- 3. Critic Rating don't seem to affect the performance of a lot of movies. Only Documentary, Biography, Drama, History Sport, Music were affected a bit.
- 4. Budget and Opening Weekend seem to make the best combination.
- 5. For dealing with movies with multi genre we can split them on the basis of high screens and using the local decision tree algorithm.

# $\mathbf{GUI}$

We created a GUI application for estimating the gross revenue for a movie. Working:

- 1. First select the genres of the movie
- 2. Fill in the required features for the movie
- 3. Get the Estimated Revenue

#### Snapshots:



Figure 12.1: Java Application for Estimating Revenue

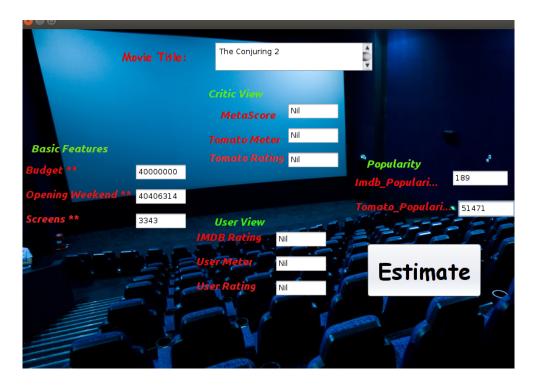


Figure 12.2: Fill in the required features

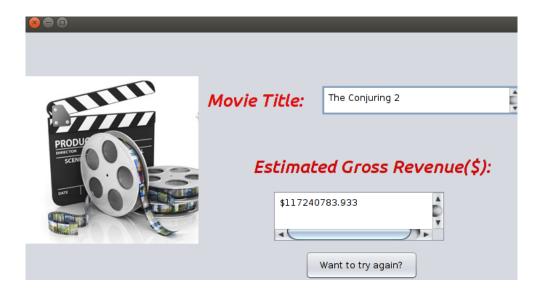


Figure 12.3: Estimated Revenue

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