

Homework- Initial Analysis on Forest Fire Dataset

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4/21/2018

1. Brief Dataset Glimpse

The dataset contains 13 different variables, with X, Y, MONTH and DAY being categorical, and the remaining 9 attributes being continuous. This multivariable dataset is suitable for setting up a predictive model and using Machine Learning methods to train datasets.

1. **X**: x-axis coordinate (from 1 to 9). It indicates one of the 9 sub-areas.
2. **Y**: y-axis coordinate (from 1 to 9). It indicates one of the 9 sub-areas obtained from the division of the area of study along the Y axis. All the areas have the same size.
3. **MONTH**: Month of the year (from 1 to 12)
4. **DAY**: Day of the week (from 1 to 7)
5. **FFMC**: Fine Moisture Code (from 18.7 to 96.20) - moisture content of surface litter
6. **DMC**: Duff Moisture Code (from 1.1 to 291.3) - rating for average moisture content of loosely connected organic layers
7. **DC**: Drought Code (from 7.9 to 860.6) - moisture content of deep, compact, organic layers
8. **ISI**: Initial Spread Index (from 0 to 56.10) - rate of fire spreading at its beginning
9. **TEMP**: Temperature(Celsius) (from 2.2 to 33.30)
10. **RH**: Relative humidity(%) (from 15.0 to 100)
11. **WIND**: Wind speed(km hr-1) (from 0.40 to 9.40)
12. **RAIN**: Rain(mm) (from 0.0 to 6.4)
13. **BURNED AREA**: Total burned area(ha) (from 0 to 1090.84)

Below shows the first six rows of the forest fire dataset.

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 13
##       X     Y month day   FFMC  DMC   DC   ISI temp  RH  wind rain
##   <int> <int> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <int> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1     7     5 mar  fri   86.2  26.2  94.3  5.10  8.20   51  6.70  0
## 2     7     4 oct  tue   90.6  35.4  669   6.70 18.0   33  0.900 0
## 3     7     4 oct  sat   90.6  43.7  687   6.70 14.6   33  1.30  0
## 4     8     6 mar  fri   91.7  33.3  77.5  9.00  8.30   97  4.00  0.200
## 5     8     6 mar  sun   89.3  51.3  102   9.60 11.4   99  1.80  0
## 6     8     6 aug  sun   92.3  85.3  488  14.7 22.2   29  5.40  0
## # ... with 1 more variable: area <dbl>
```

Summary

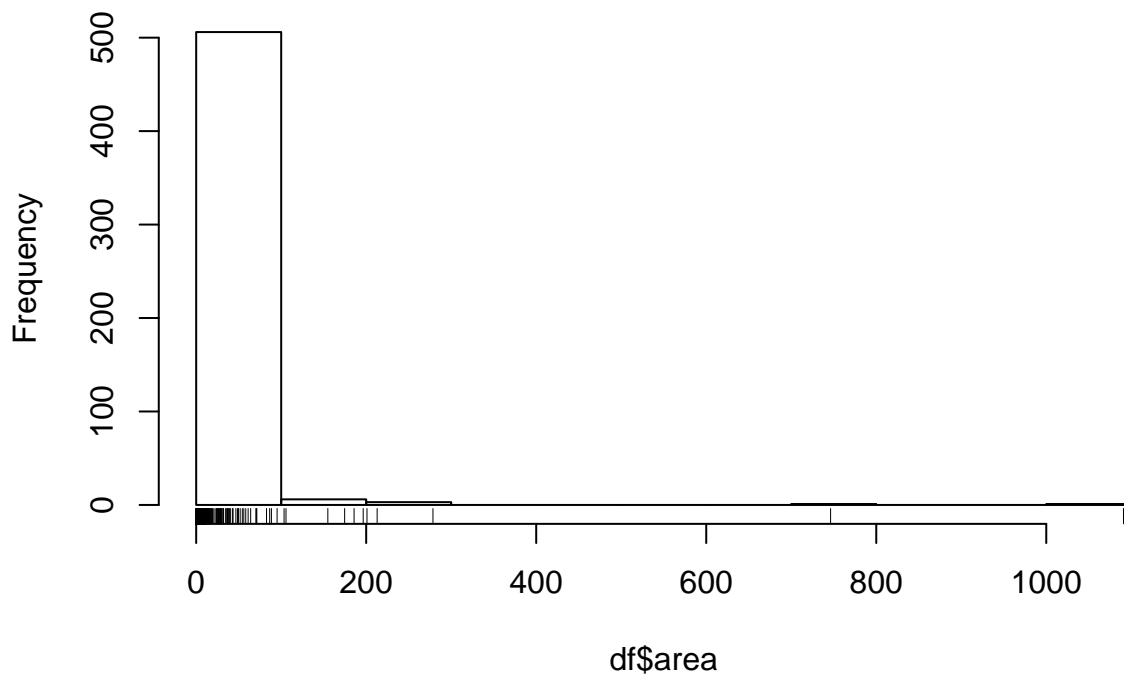
```
##       X           Y           month           day
##  Min.    :1.000  Min.    :2.0  Length:517      Length:517
## 1st Qu.:3.000  1st Qu.:4.0  Class :character  Class :character
## Median :4.000  Median :4.0  Mode  :character  Mode  :character
## Mean    :4.669  Mean    :4.3
## 3rd Qu.:7.000  3rd Qu.:5.0
## Max.    :9.000  Max.    :9.0
##       FFMC           DMC           DC           ISI
##  Min.    :18.70  Min.    : 1.1  Min.    : 7.9  Min.    : 0.000
## 1st Qu.:90.20  1st Qu.: 68.6  1st Qu.:437.7  1st Qu.: 6.500
```

```
## Median :91.60    Median :108.3    Median :664.2    Median : 8.400
## Mean   :90.64    Mean   :110.9    Mean   :547.9    Mean   : 9.022
## 3rd Qu.:92.90    3rd Qu.:142.4    3rd Qu.:713.9    3rd Qu.:10.800
## Max.   :96.20    Max.   :291.3    Max.   :860.6    Max.   :56.100
##      temp      RH      wind      rain
## Min.    : 2.20    Min.    : 15.00    Min.    :0.400    Min.    :0.00000
## 1st Qu.:15.50    1st Qu.: 33.00    1st Qu.:2.700    1st Qu.:0.00000
## Median :19.30    Median : 42.00    Median :4.000    Median :0.00000
## Mean   :18.89    Mean   : 44.29    Mean   :4.018    Mean   :0.02166
## 3rd Qu.:22.80    3rd Qu.: 53.00    3rd Qu.:4.900    3rd Qu.:0.00000
## Max.   :33.30    Max.   :100.00    Max.   :9.400    Max.   :6.40000
##      area
## Min.    :  0.00
## 1st Qu.:  0.00
## Median :  0.52
## Mean   : 12.85
## 3rd Qu.:  6.57
## Max.   :1090.84
```

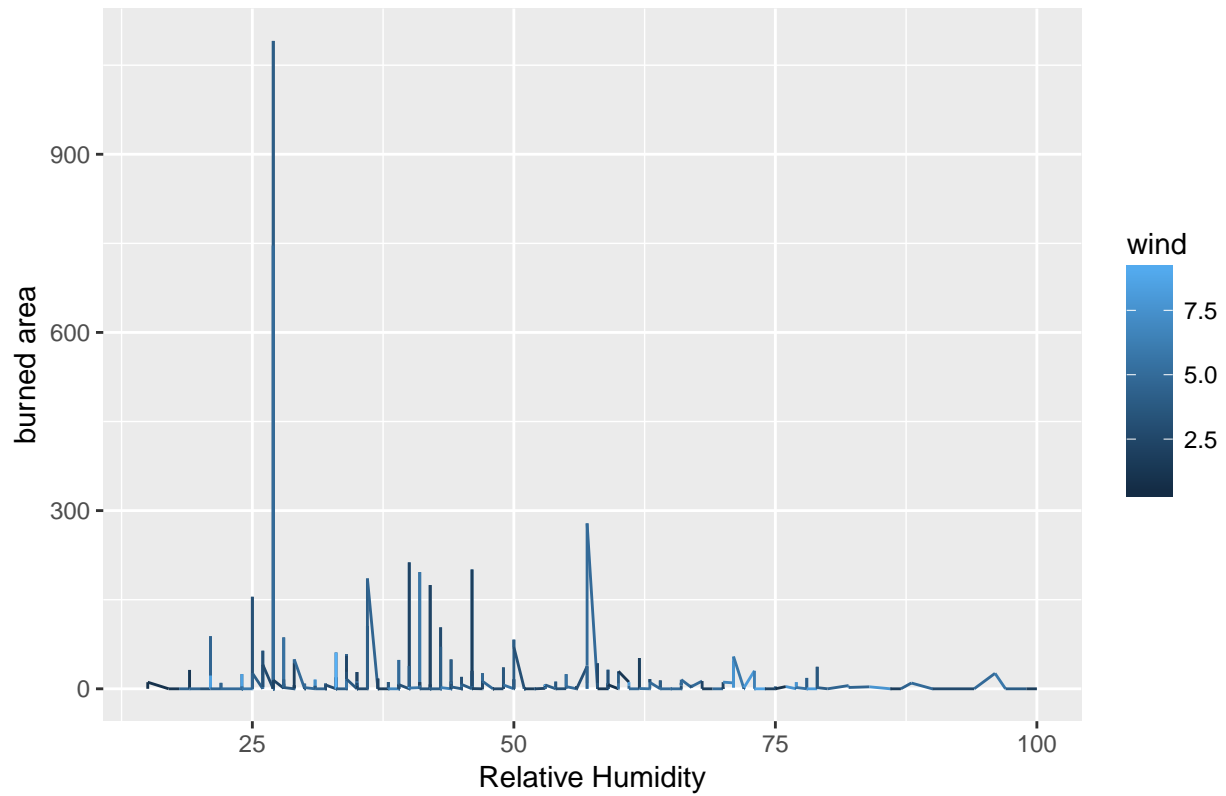
2. Exploratory Data Analysis and Visualizations

We can use ggplot2 to better visualize the data, see below sample histogram, relationship between humidity and burn area, as well as the correlations between temperature, drought code, area and month:

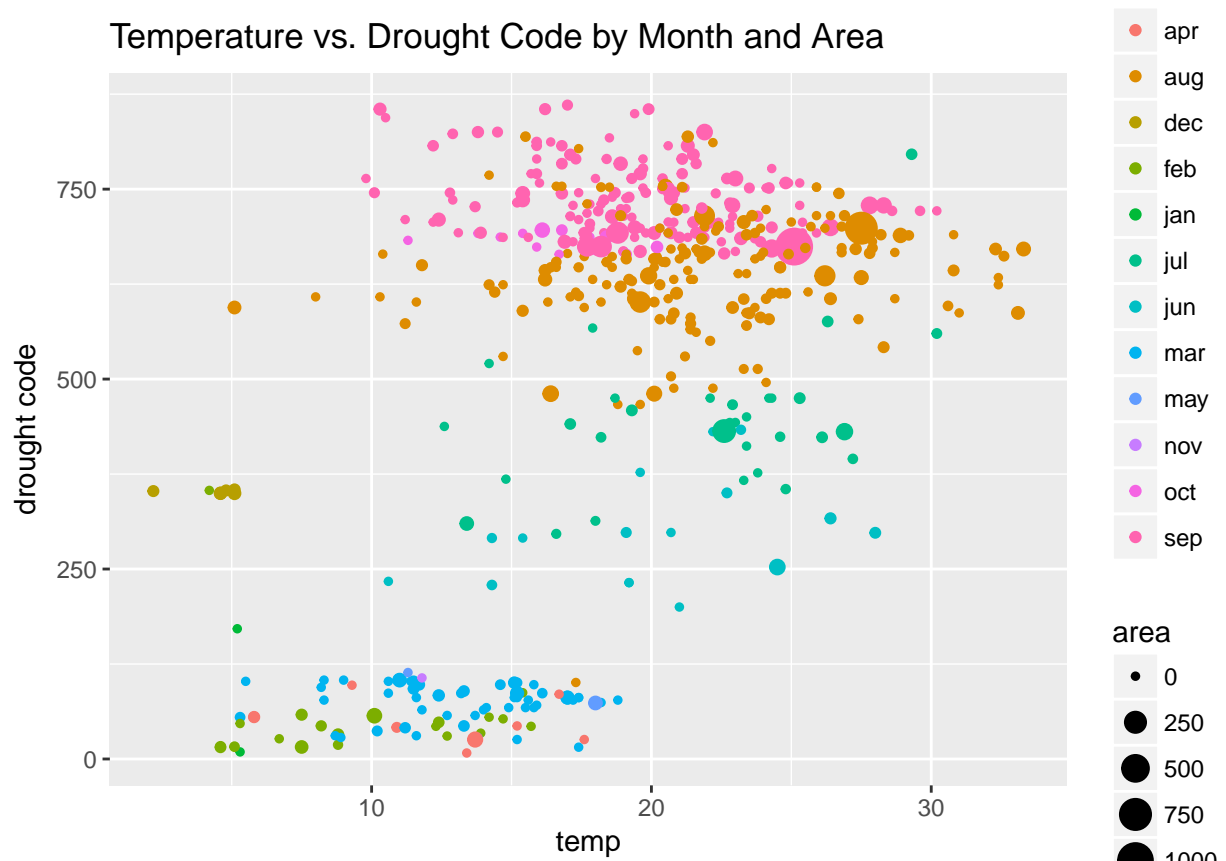
Histogram of df\$area



Relative Humidity vs. Burn Area



Temperature vs. Drought Code by Month and Area



2A. Factor Analysis using KMO Test

The next step is then to carefully examine the data variables and determine which ones are most/relatively more important given a number of potential causes. **Factor Analysis** method will play a vital role in this step. Factor analysis is the most widely used multivariate technique to describe variability among observed, correlated variables in terms of potentially lower number of unobserved variables. It is a statistical method for dimension reduction.

Factor analysis requires numeric input, the dataset needs to be cleaned/transformed - any character types would be converted to numeric type. Hence, we convert “month” and “day” to numbers as shown in below code:

```
df$month <- as.numeric(df$month)
df$day <- as.numeric(df$day)
```

This however will give both variables as **NA** values. A second attempt to transform the dataset is then carried out in below code.

```
url <- "https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/machine-learning-databases/forest-fires/forestfires.csv"
df1 <- read.csv(url)
fires$month <- as.numeric((fires$month))
fires$day <- as.numeric(fires$day)
library(dplyr)
head(fires)
```

The result is shown as below:

```
##   X Y month day FFMC  DMC   DC  ISI temp RH wind rain area
## 1 7 5     8   1 86.2 26.2  94.3  5.1  8.2 51  6.7  0.0   0
## 2 7 4    11   6 90.6 35.4 669.1  6.7 18.0 33  0.9  0.0   0
## 3 7 4    11   3 90.6 43.7 686.9  6.7 14.6 33  1.3  0.0   0
## 4 8 6     8   1 91.7 33.3  77.5  9.0  8.3 97  4.0  0.2   0
## 5 8 6     8   4 89.3 51.3 102.2  9.6 11.4 99  1.8  0.0   0
## 6 8 6     2   4 92.3 85.3 488.0 14.7 22.2 29  5.4  0.0   0
```

In order to find the relevant variables, a **KMO** test is needed to answer the question. KMO stands for **Kaiser-Meyer-olkin** test. It's a measure of the proportion of variance among variables that might be a common variances. **The lower the proportion, the more suited your data is to Factor Analysis.**

Checking adequacy of factor analysis

There are two major criteria to check the adequacy of the factor analysis to help identify more relevant variables.

1. Criteria of sample size adequacy: sample size of 300 and above is good, 500 and more is considered very good. In our dataset, the sample size is 517, which implies it is suitable for factor analysis.

2. KMO's sampling adequacy criteria with MSA(individual measures of sampling adequacy of each variable): The range of KMO is from 0.0 to 1.0 and if the calculated percentage is > 0.5, the variable is desired value. Variables with MSA being < 0.5 indicate that items do not belong to a group and may be removed from the factor analysis.

To successfully perform KMO test, a R package named **Psych** is installed and used with the following code:

```
library(psych)
fires_corr <- cor(fires)
KMO(fires_corr)
```

The result shows that the overall MSA is 0.57 which is greater than 0.5 that is desired value.

```
## Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin factor adequacy
## Call: KMO(r = fires_corr)
## Overall MSA = 0.57
## MSA for each item =
##      X      Y month   day  FFMC   DMC    DC   ISI  temp   RH  wind  rain
## 0.51 0.50 0.27 0.66 0.72 0.59 0.58 0.67 0.63 0.41 0.52 0.44
## area
## 0.61
```

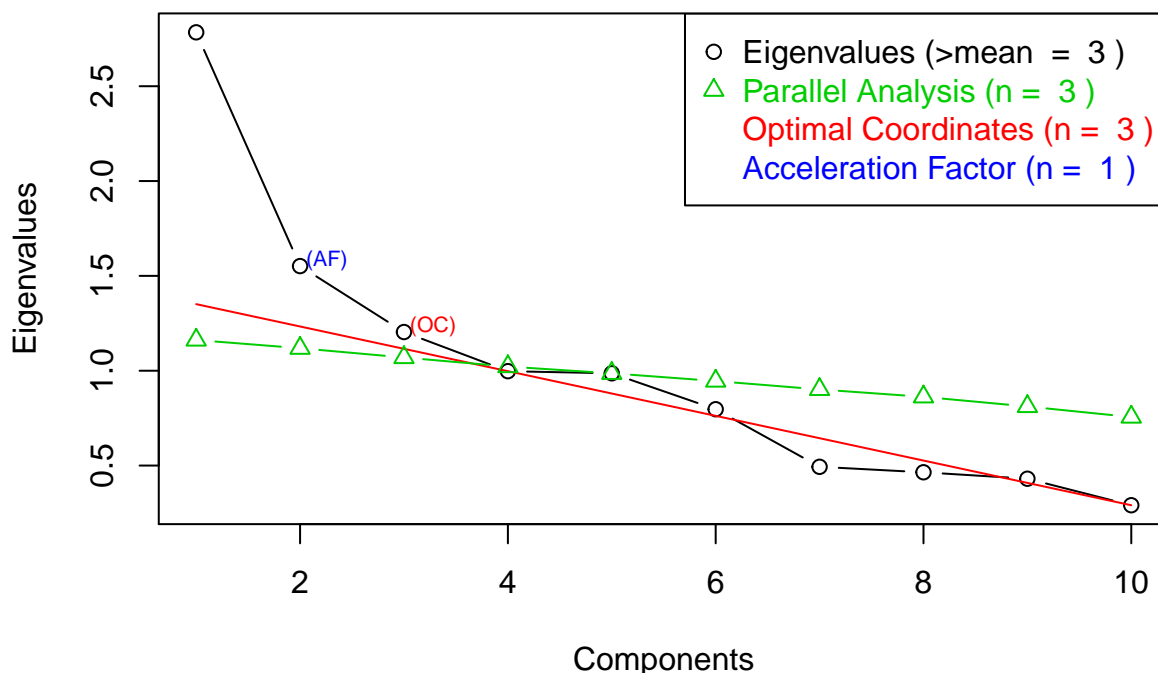
Based on the table shown above, we can eliminate **MONTH**, **RH (Relative Humidity)**, and **RAIN** and keep **X**, **Y**, **DAY**, **FFMC**, **DMC**, **DC**, **ISI**, **WIND** and **AREA** for further metric evaluation.

So we exclude variables of **month**, **RH**, and **rain**, and keep the result to two decimals.

```
##      X      Y  day  FFMC   DMC    DC   ISI  temp  wind area
## X    1.00 0.54 -0.01 -0.02 -0.05 -0.09 0.01 -0.05 0.02 0.06
## Y    0.54 1.00 0.03 -0.05 0.01 -0.10 -0.02 -0.02 -0.02 0.04
## day -0.01 0.03 1.00 0.07 0.07 0.06 0.12 0.15 -0.03 0.02
## FFMC -0.02 -0.05 0.07 1.00 0.38 0.33 0.53 0.43 -0.03 0.04
## DMC  -0.05 0.01 0.07 0.38 1.00 0.68 0.31 0.47 -0.11 0.07
## DC   -0.09 -0.10 0.06 0.33 0.68 1.00 0.23 0.50 -0.20 0.05
## ISI  0.01 -0.02 0.12 0.53 0.31 0.23 1.00 0.39 0.11 0.01
## temp -0.05 -0.02 0.15 0.43 0.47 0.50 0.39 1.00 -0.23 0.10
## wind 0.02 -0.02 -0.03 -0.03 -0.11 -0.20 0.11 -0.23 1.00 0.01
## area 0.06 0.04 0.02 0.04 0.07 0.05 0.01 0.10 0.01 1.00
```

At this point we don't know how many factor variables to use for further analysis, The **nFactors** package is then first installed to offer a suite of functions to aid in this decision and plot a Scree-plot to visualize the scenario. The Scree Test is a graphical method first proposed by Cattell(1966) to plot the eigenvalues. Cattell suggests to find the place where the smooth decrease of eigenvalues appears to level off to the right of the plot. In this case, we could probably retain 2 or 3 factors.

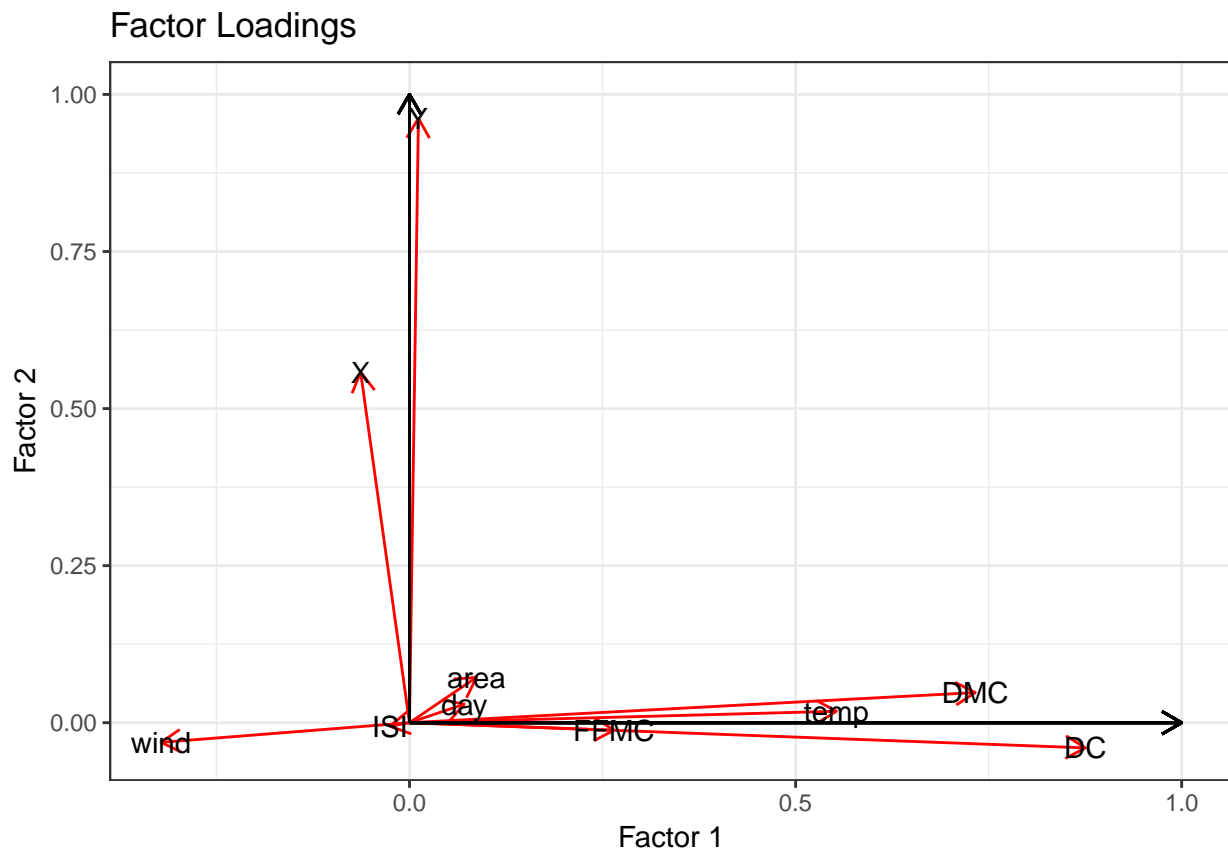
Non Graphical Solutions to Scree Test

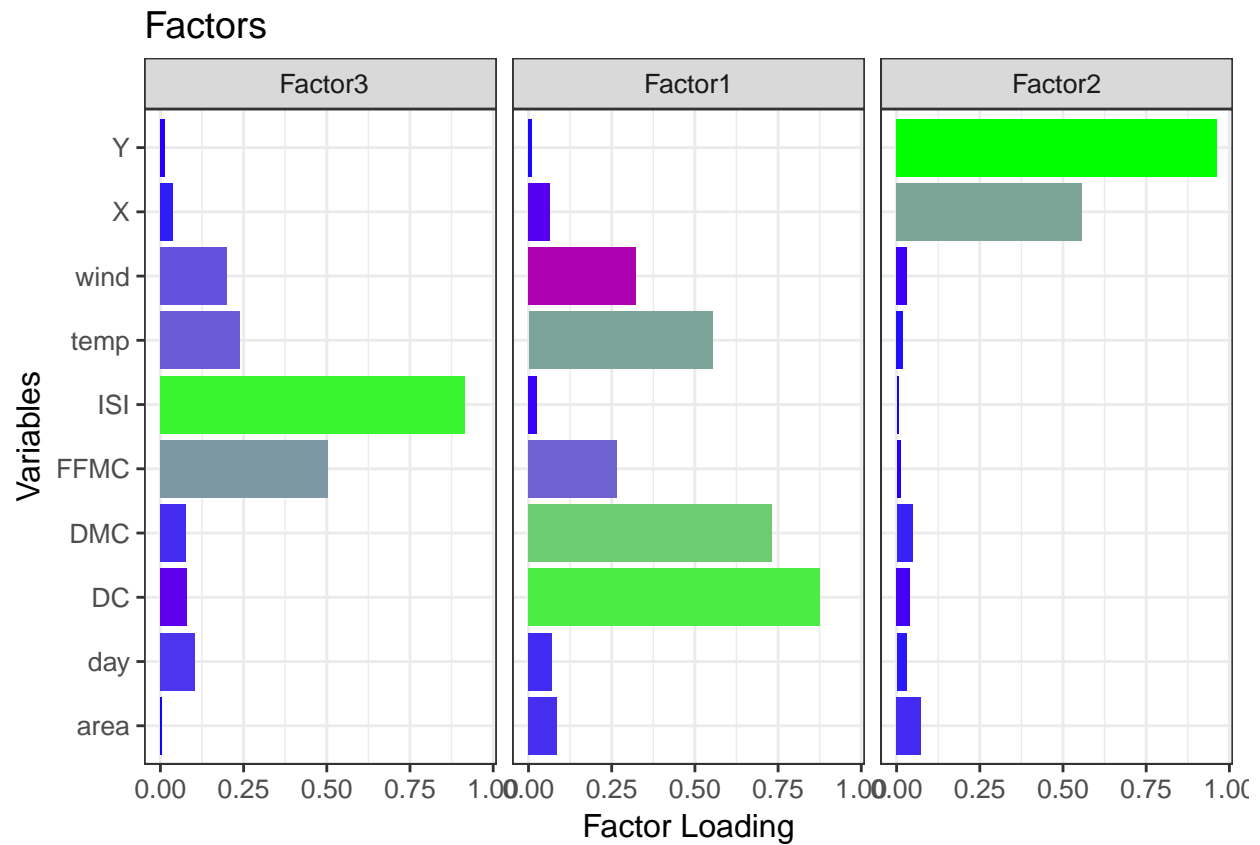


According to above **Scree-plot** result, all of Eigenvalues, Parallel Analysis(AF) as well as Optimal Coordinates(OC) give $n = 3$.

Factor Loadings: Factors and Variables

In the next plot using ggplot2, I will demonstrate the relationships of factors and variables.

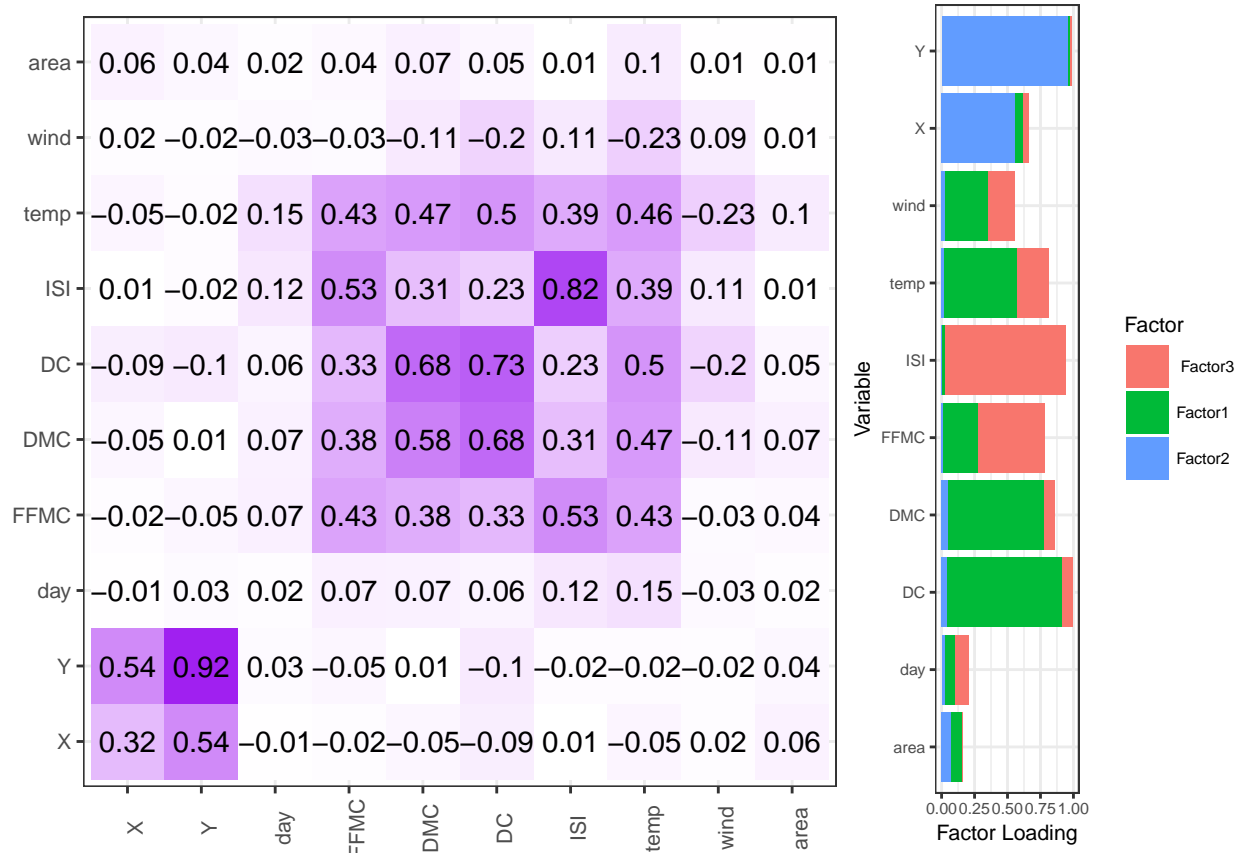




Based on above Factor Loading plot, we can deduce that the following relationships:

- **DC**, **DMC**, and **wind** load Factor 1
- **X** and **Y** load on Factor 2
- **FFMC** and **ISI** load on Factor 3

Next, a reduced correlation matrix(heatmap) will be constructed based on above three Factor Loadings. To do this, R packages like **reshape2** and **gridExtra** are needed to complete the graph.



Interpretation of the reduced correlation matrix: Based on above heatmap, **DC** and **DMC** has 0.68 coefficient correlation(Factor 1), **X** and **Y** has a 0.54 coefficient correlation(Factor 2), and **ISI** and **FFMC** has 0.53 coefficient correlations(Factor 3).