

Linear Regression in Python with Scikit-Learn

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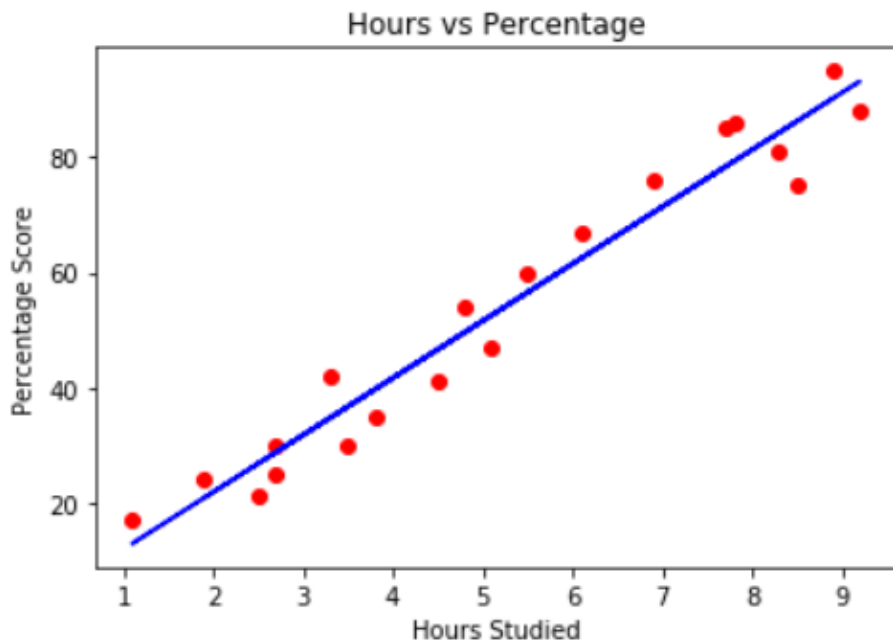
There are two types of supervised machine learning algorithms: Regression and classification. The former predicts continuous value outputs while the latter predicts discrete outputs. For instance, predicting the price of a house in dollars is a regression problem whereas predicting whether a tumor is malignant or benign is a classification problem.

In this article we will briefly study what linear regression is and how it can be implemented using the Python Scikit-Learn library, which is one of the most popular machine learning libraries for Python.

Linear Regression Theory

The term "linearity" in algebra refers to a linear relationship between two or more variables. If we draw this relationship in a two dimensional space (between two variables, in this case), we get a straight line.

Let's consider a scenario where we want to determine the linear relationship between the numbers of hours a student studies and the percentage of marks that student scores in an exam. We want to find out that given the number of hours a student prepares for a test, about how high of a score can the student achieve? If we plot the independent variable (hours) on the x-axis and dependent variable (percentage) on the y-axis, linear regression gives us a straight line that best fits the data points, as shown in the figure below.



We know that the equation of a straight line is basically:

$$y = mx + b$$

Where **b** is the intercept and **m** is the slope of the line. So basically, the linear regression algorithm gives us the most optimal value for the intercept and the slope (in two dimensions). The **y** and **x** variables remain the same, since they are the data features and cannot be changed.

The values that we can control are the intercept and slope. There can be multiple straight lines depending upon the values of intercept and slope. Basically what the linear regression algorithm does is it fits multiple lines on the data points and returns the line that results in the least error.

This same concept can be extended to the cases where there are more than two variables. This is called multiple linear regression. For instance, consider a scenario where you have to predict the price of house based upon its area, number of bedrooms, average income of the people in the area, the age of the house, and so on. In this case the dependent variable is dependent upon several independent variables. A regression model involving multiple variables can be represented as:

$$y = b_0 + m_1b_1 + m_2b_2 + m_3b_3 + \dots \dots m_nb_n$$

This is the equation of a hyper plane. Remember, a linear regression model in two dimensions is a straight line; in three dimensions it is a plane, and in more than three dimensions, a hyper plane.

Linear Regression with Python Scikit Learn

In this section we will see how the Python Scikit-Learn library for machine learning can be used to implement regression functions. We will start with simple linear regression involving two variables and then we will move towards linear regression involving multiple variables.

Simple Linear Regression

In this regression task we will predict the percentage of marks that a student is expected to score based upon the number of hours they studied. This is a simple linear regression task as it involves just two variables.

Importing Libraries

To import necessary libraries for this task, execute the following import statements:

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
```

Note: As you may have noticed from the above import statements, this code was executed using a Jupyter iPython Notebook.

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Dataset

The dataset being used for this example has been made publicly available and can be downloaded from this link:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1oakZCv7g3mlmCSdv9J8kdSaqO5_6dIOw

Note: This example was executed on a Windows based machine and the dataset was stored in "D:\datasets" folder. You can download the file in a different location as long as you change the dataset path accordingly.

The following command imports the CSV dataset using pandas:

```
dataset = pd.read_csv('D:\Datasets\student_scores.csv')
```

Now let's explore our dataset a bit. To do so, execute the following script:

```
dataset.shape
```

After doing this, you should see the following printed out:

```
(25, 2)
```

This means that our dataset has 25 rows and 2 columns. Let's take a look at what our dataset actually looks like. To do this, use the `head()` method:

```
dataset.head()
```

The above method retrieves the first 5 records from our dataset, which will look like this:

	Hours	Scores
0	2.5	21
1	5.1	47
2	3.2	27
3	8.5	75
4	3.5	30

To see statistical details of the dataset, we can use `describe()` :

```
dataset.describe()
```

	Hours	Scores
count	25.000000	25.000000
mean	5.012000	51.480000
std	2.525094	25.286887
min	1.100000	17.000000
25%	2.700000	30.000000
50%	4.800000	47.000000
75%	7.400000	75.000000
max	9.200000	95.000000

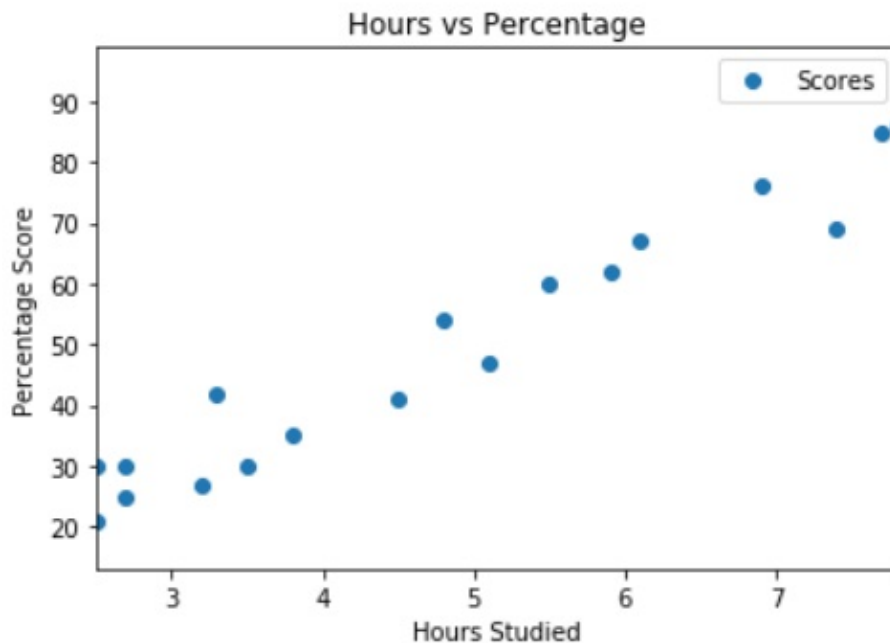
And finally, let's plot our data points on 2-D graph to eyeball our dataset and see if we can manually find any relationship between the data. We can create the plot with the following script:

```
dataset.plot(x='Hours', y='Scores', style='o')
plt.title('Hours vs Percentage')
plt.xlabel('Hours Studied')
plt.ylabel('Percentage Score')
plt.show()
```

In the script above, we use `plot()` function of the pandas dataframe and pass it the column names for `x` coordinate and `y` coordinate, which are "Hours" and "Scores" respectively.

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The resulting plot will look like this:



From the graph above, we can clearly see that there is a positive linear relation between the number of hours studied and percentage of score.

Preparing the Data

Now we have an idea about statistical details of our data. The next step is to divide the data into "attributes" and "labels". Attributes are the independent variables while labels are dependent variables whose values are to be predicted. In our dataset we only have two columns. We want to predict the percentage score depending upon the hours studied. Therefore our attribute set will consist of the "Hours" column, and the label will be the "Score" column. To extract the attributes and labels, execute the following script:

```
X = dataset.iloc[:, :-1].values
y = dataset.iloc[:, 1].values
```

The attributes are stored in the `X` variable. We specified `"-1"` as the range for columns since we wanted our attribute set to contain *all* the columns except the last one, which is "Scores". Similarly the `y` variable contains the labels. We specified `1` for the label column since the index for "Scores" column is 1. Remember, the column indexes start with 0, with 1 being the second column. In the next section, we will see a better way to specify columns for attributes and labels.

Now that we have our attributes and labels, the next step is to split this data into training and test sets. We'll do this by using Scikit-Learn's built-in `train_test_split()` method:

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=0)
```

The above script splits 80% of the data to training set while 20% of the data to test set. The `test_size` variable is where we actually specify the proportion of test set.

Training the Algorithm

We have split our data into training and testing sets, and now is finally the time to train our algorithm. Execute following command:

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression
regressor = LinearRegression()
regressor.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

With Scikit-Learn it is extremely straight forward to implement linear regression models, as all you really need to do is import the `LinearRegression` class, instantiate it, and call the `fit()` method along with our training data. This is about as simple as it gets when using a machine learning library to train on your data.

In the theory section we said that linear regression model basically finds the best value for the intercept and slope, which results in a line that best fits the data. To see the value of the intercept and slop calculated by the linear regression algorithm for our dataset, execute the following code.

To retrieve the intercept:

```
print(regressor.intercept_)
```

The resulting value you see should be approximately 2.01816004143.

For retrieving the slope (coefficient of x):

```
print(regressor.coef_)
```

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The result should be approximately 9.91065648.

This means that for every one unit of change in hours studied, the change in the score is about 9.91%. Or in simpler words, if a student studies one hour more than they previously studied for an exam, they can expect to achieve an increase of 9.91% in the score achieved by the student previously.

Making Predictions

Now that we have trained our algorithm, it's time to make some predictions. To do so, we will use our test data and see how accurately our algorithm predicts the percentage score. To make predictions on the test data, execute the following script:

```
y_pred = regressor.predict(X_test)
```

The `y_pred` is a numpy array that contains all the predicted values for the input values in the `X_test` series.

To compare the actual output values for `X_test` with the predicted values, execute the following script:

```
df = pd.DataFrame({'Actual': y_test, 'Predicted': y_pred})
df
```

The output looks like this:

	Actual	Predicted
0	20	16.884145
1	27	33.732261
2	69	75.357018
3	30	26.794801
4	62	60.491033

Though our model is not very precise, the predicted percentages are close to the actual ones.

Note:

The values in the columns above may be different in your case because the `train_test_split` function randomly splits data into train and test sets, and your splits are likely different from the one shown in this article.

Evaluating the Algorithm

The final step is to evaluate the performance of algorithm. This step is particularly important to compare how well different algorithms perform on a particular dataset. For regression algorithms, three evaluation metrics are commonly used:

1. Mean Absolute Error (MAE) is the mean of the absolute value of the errors. It is calculated as:
2. Mean Squared Error (MSE) is the mean of the squared errors and is calculated as:
3. Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) is the square root of the mean of the squared errors:

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |Actual - Predicted|$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |Actual - Predicted|^2$$

Luckily, we don't have to perform these calculations manually. The Scikit-Learn library comes with pre-built functions that can be used to find out these values for us.

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |Actual - Predicted|^2}$$

Let's find the values for these metrics using our test data. Execute the following code:

```
from sklearn import metrics
print('Mean Absolute Error:', metrics.mean_absolute_error(y_test, y_pred))
print('Mean Squared Error:', metrics.mean_squared_error(y_test, y_pred))
print('Root Mean Squared Error:', np.sqrt(metrics.mean_squared_error(y_test, y_pred)))
```

The output will look similar to this (but probably slightly different):

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```
Mean Absolute Error: 4.183859899
Mean Squared Error: 21.5987693072
Root Mean Squared Error: 4.6474476121
```

You can see that the value of root mean squared error is 4.64, which is less than 10% of the mean value of the percentages of all the students i.e. 51.48. This means that our algorithm did a decent job.

Multiple Linear Regression

In the previous section we performed linear regression involving two variables. Almost all real world problems that you are going to encounter will have more than two variables. Linear regression involving multiple variables is called "multiple linear regression". The steps to perform multiple linear regression are almost similar to that of simple linear regression. The difference lies in the evaluation. You can use it to find out which factor has the highest impact on the predicted output and how different variables relate to each other.

In this section we will use multiple linear regression to predict the gas consumptions (in millions of gallons) in 48 US states based upon gas taxes (in cents), per capita income (dollars), paved highways (in miles) and the proportion of population that has a drivers license.

The details of the dataset can be found at this link:

<http://people.sc.fsu.edu/~jburkardt/datasets/regression/x16.txt>

The first two columns in the above dataset do not provide any useful information, therefore they have been removed from the dataset file. Now let's develop a regression model for this task.

Importing the Libraries

The following script imports the necessary libraries:

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
```

Dataset

The dataset for this example is available at:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mVmGNx6cbfvRHC_DvF12ZL3wGLSHD9f

The following command imports the dataset from the file you downloaded via the link above:

```
dataset = pd.read_csv('D:\Datasets\petrol_consumption.csv')
```

Just like last time, let's take a look at what our dataset actually looks like. Execute the `head()` command:

```
dataset.head()
```

The first few lines of our dataset looks like this:

	Petrol_tax	Average_income	Paved_Highways	Population_Driver_license(%)	Petrol_Consumption
0	9.0	3571	1976	0.525	541
1	9.0	4092	1250	0.572	524
2	9.0	3865	1586	0.580	561
3	7.5	4870	2351	0.529	414
4	8.0	4399	431	0.544	410

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To see statistical details of the dataset, we'll use the `describe()` command again:

```
dataset.describe()
```

	Petrol_tax	Average_income	Paved_Highways	Population_Driver_license(%)	Petrol_Consumption
count	48.000000	48.000000	48.000000	48.000000	48.000000
mean	7.668333	4241.833333	5565.416667	0.570333	576.770833
std	0.950770	573.623768	3491.507166	0.055470	111.885816
min	5.000000	3063.000000	431.000000	0.451000	344.000000
25%	7.000000	3739.000000	3110.250000	0.529750	509.500000
50%	7.500000	4298.000000	4735.500000	0.564500	568.500000

	Petrol_tax	Average_income	Paved_Highways	Population_Driver_license(%)	Petrol_Consumption
75%	8.125000	4578.750000	7156.000000	0.595250	632.750000
max	10.00000	5342.000000	17782.000000	0.724000	986.000000

Preparing the Data

The next step is to divide the data into attributes and labels as we did previously. However, unlike last time, this time around we are going to use column names for creating an attribute set and label. Execute the following script:

```
X = dataset[['Petrol_tax', 'Average_income', 'Paved_Highways',
            'Population_Driver_licence(%)']]
y = dataset['Petrol_Consumption']
```

Execute the following code to divide our data into training and test sets:

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=0)
```

Training the Algorithm

And finally, to train the algorithm we execute the same code as before, using the `fit()` method of the `LinearRegression` class:

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression
regressor = LinearRegression()
regressor.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

As said earlier, in case of multivariable linear regression, the regression model has to find the most optimal coefficients for all the attributes. To see what coefficients our regression model has chosen, execute the following script:

```
coeff_df = pd.DataFrame(regressor.coef_, X.columns, columns=['Coefficient'])
coeff_df
```

The result should look something like this:

	Coefficient
Petrol_tax	-24.196784
Average_income	-0.81680
Paved_Highways	-0.000522
Population_Driver_license(%)	1324.675464

This means that for a unit increase in "petrol_tax", there is a decrease of 24.19 million gallons in gas consumption. Similarly, a unit increase in proportion of population with a drivers license results in an increase of 1.324 billion gallons of gas consumption. We can see that "Average_income" and "Paved_Highways" have a very little effect on the gas consumption.

Making Predictions

To make pre-dictions on the test data, execute the following script:

```
y_pred = regressor.predict(X_test)
```

To compare the actual output values for `X_test` with the predicted values, execute the following script:

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```
df = pd.DataFrame({'Actual': y_test, 'Predicted': y_pred})  
df
```

The output looks like this:

	Actual	Predicted
36	640	643.176639
22	464	411.950913
20	649	683.712762
38	648	728.049522
18	865	755.473801
1	524	559.135132
44	782	671.916474
21	540	550.633557
16	603	594.425464
45	510	525.038883

Evaluating the Algorithm

The final step is to evaluate the performance of algorithm. We'll do this by finding the values for MAE, MSE and RMSE. Execute the following script:

```
from sklearn import metrics  
print('Mean Absolute Error:', metrics.mean_absolute_error(y_test, y_pred))  
print('Mean Squared Error:', metrics.mean_squared_error(y_test, y_pred))  
print('Root Mean Squared Error:', np.sqrt(metrics.mean_squared_error(y_test, y_pred)))
```

The output will look similar to this:

```
Mean Absolute Error: 45.8979842541  
Mean Squared Error: 3609.37119141  
Root Mean Squared Error: 60.0780425065
```

You can see that the value of root mean squared error is 60.07, which is slightly greater than 10% of the mean value of the gas consumption in all states. This means that our algorithm was not very accurate but can still make reasonably good predictions.

There are many factors that may have contributed to this inaccuracy, a few of which are listed here:

1. Need more data: Only one year worth of data isn't that much, whereas having multiple years worth could have helped us improve the accuracy quite a bit.
2. Bad assumptions: We made the assumption that this data has a linear relationship, but that might not be the case. Visualizing the data may help you determine that.
3. Poor features: The features we used may not have had a high enough correlation to the values we were trying to predict.

Conclusion

In this article we studied on of the most fundamental machine learning algorithms i.e. linear regression. We implemented both simple linear regression and multiple linear regression with the help of the Scikit-Learn machine learning library.