2017 Coursera Practical Machine Learning Assigment

Analysis of the Weight Lifting Exercises Dataset

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Executive Summary

People understand how much of a particular physical activity they do, but they rarely quantify how well they do it. This project goal is to analyze data from accelerometers on the belt, forearm, arm, and dumbell of six participants. They were asked to perform barbell lifts correctly and incorrectly in five different ways. For more information see the “Weight Lifting Exercises Dataset” in the following location:

http://groupware.les.inf.puc-rio.br/har

Specifically, the goal of this machine learning capstone project is to predict the manner in which the participants did the exercise–that is, to predict the “classe” variable found in the training set. The prediction model will then be used to predict twenty different test cases, as provided in the testing dataset. Such test cases are ultiimately submitted back to the Coursera platform, to be used for both grading and as evidence of the completion of the produced predictive model developed by this project author.

As a secondary technical objective, is to convey this work by the means of deliberately using "Rattle" (an open-source front-end GUI to R) as the primary R package, that will load "on the fly" many other packages to accomplish the required tasks. The R code generated by Rattle will be included In Appendix C.

To learn about Rattle, please visit https://rattle.togaware.com/

Platform and Tools

To run this project an Intel Pentium dual core PC with 4mb or RAM and Windows 10 was used, loaded with 64-bit of R software version is 3.4.1 and Rattle version 5.0.19.

Exploratory data analysis

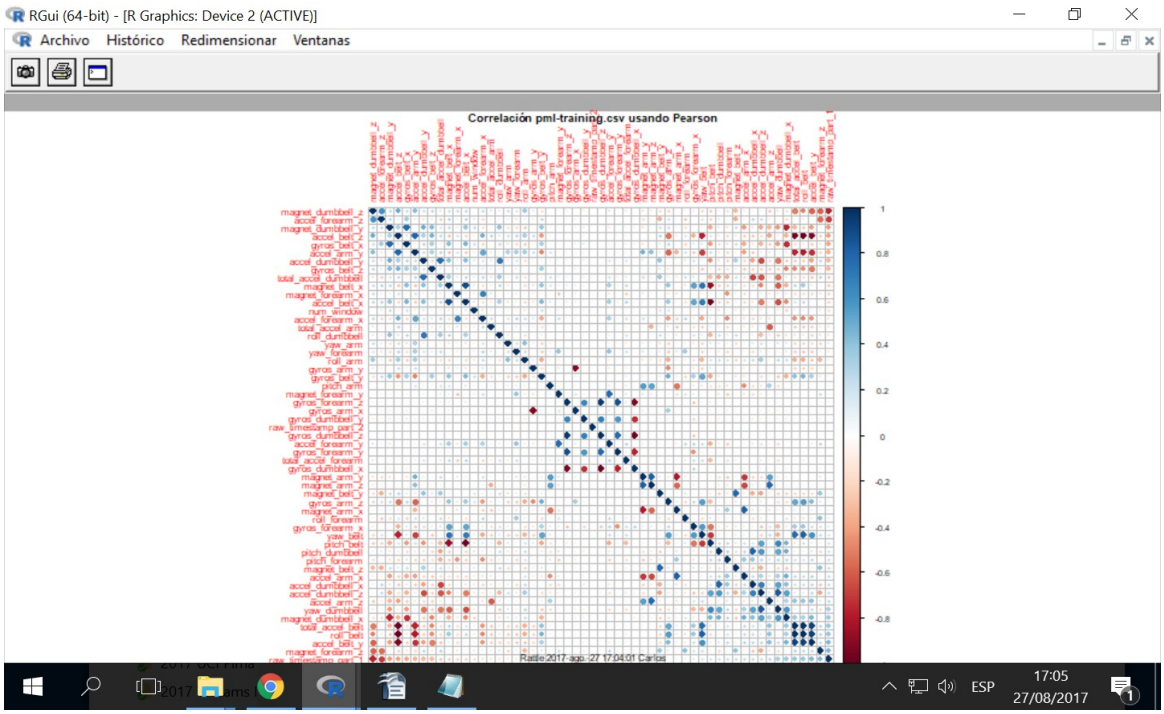
The training and testing datasets used in the analysis may be found at:

Training dataset:
https://d396qusza40orc.cloudfront.net/predmachlearn/pml-training.csv

Testing dataset:
https://d396qusza40orc.cloudfront.net/predmachlearn/pml-testing.csv

A quick inspection if the training dataset structure reveals 160 columns, with lots of variables populated with missing values. Variables showing more than 90% missing, were marked to be ignored by Rattle. Some variables (like "new window") showing constant values were also exluded from the model. Looking to the statistical summary (Appendix B) variables were checked on their mean, min-max and percentiles. This process helped to continue rejecting some variables that were not adeuqate to be kept as predictors to feed the models.

Second, a correlation analysis was made to graphically appreciate that a significant number of useful variables (57 total) showed loose correlation among them.


RGui (64-bit) - [R Graphics: Device 2 (ACTIVE)]
Archivo Histórico Redimensionar Ventanas
Correlación pml-training.csv usando Pearson
Rattle 2017-ago.-27 17:04:01 Carlos
ESP
17:05
27/08/2017

Model building

Based on the number of predictors and the data distributions observed, two model candidates were chosen: Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Random Forest (RF) to start with.

The training set was partitioned into three subsets: 75% for training, 15% for validation and 15% for testing.

A initial run of rhe SVM showed poor results in terms of error (10% approx). Below is the confusion matrix for the SVM run on the validation set.

```
Error matrix for SVM model in pml-training.csv [validate] (count):

      Predicted
Actual   A   B   C   D   E Error
     A 848  23   4   0   0   3.1
     B  54 451  31   0   0  15.9
     C   3  32 457   5   0   8.0
     D   0   5  44 404  34  17.0
     E   0   1   1  33 513   6.4

Error matrix for the SVM model on pml-training.csv [validate] (proportions):

      Predicted
Actual    A    B    C    D    E Error
     A 28.8  0.8  0.1  0.0  0.0   3.1
     B  1.8 15.3  1.1  0.0  0.0  15.9
     C  0.1  1.1 15.5  0.2  0.0   8.0
     D  0.0  0.2  1.5 13.7  1.2  17.0
     E  0.0  0.0  0.0  1.1 17.4   6.4

Overall error: 9.3%, Averaged class error: 10.08%
```

The above SVM based model was discarded to immediately try the Random Forest algorithm (RF, set to 500 trees), that showed a significant improvement, an OOB estimate of 0.14% . Below is the RF summary:

```
Summary of the Random Forest Model
==================================
Number of observations used to build the model: 13735
Call:
 randomForest(formula = classe ~ .,
              data = crs$dataset[crs$sample, c(crs$input, crs$target)],
              ntree = 500, mtry = 100, importance = TRUE, replace = FALSE, na.action = na.omit)
Type of random forest: classification
              Number of trees: 500
No. of variables tried at each split: 57
        OOB estimate of  error rate: 0.14%
Confusion matrix:
     A    B    C    D    E class.error
A 3898    0    0    0    0 0.000000000
B    1 2661    3    0    0 0.001500938
C    0    2 2411    1    0 0.001242751
D    0    0    5 2250    2 0.003101462
E    0    0    0    5 2496 0.001999200
```

Conclusion: predicting weight lifting with Random Forest

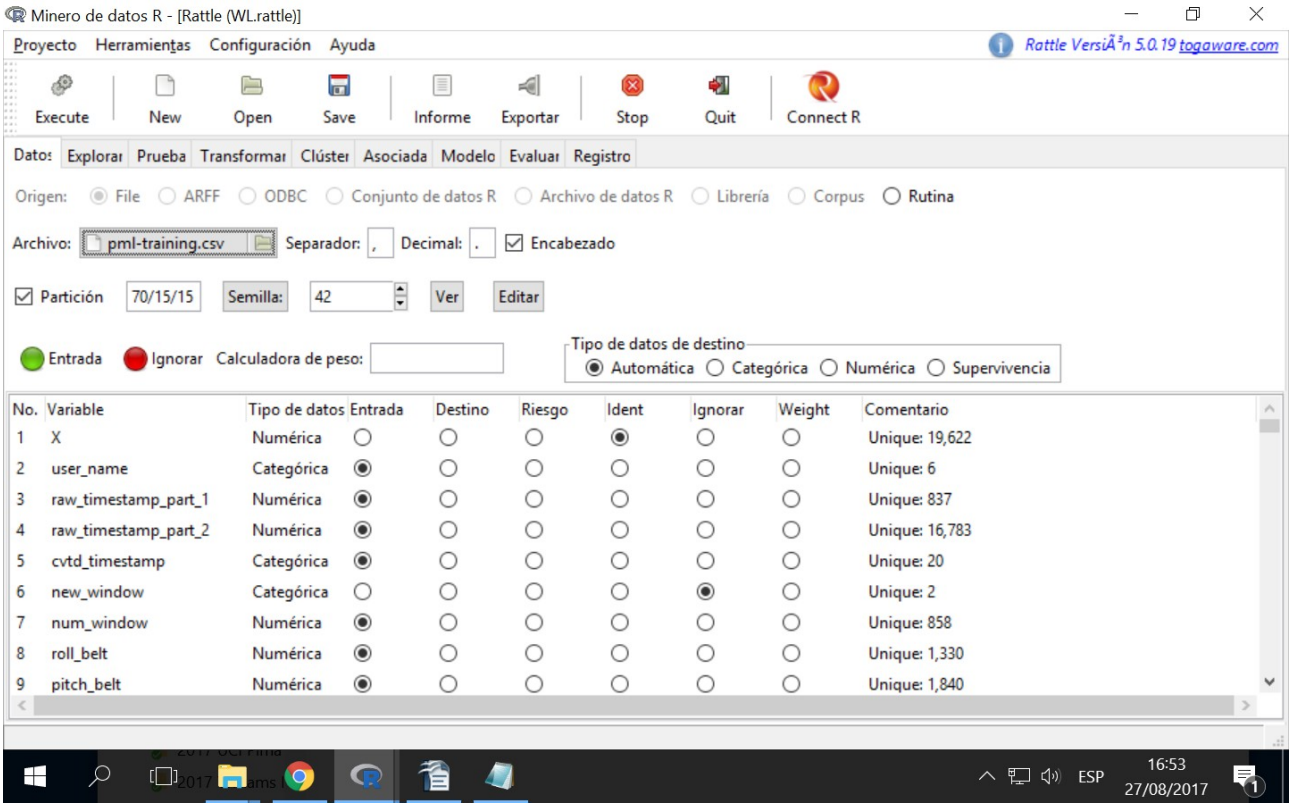
Random Forest was found as an adequate model to predict the weight lifting excercise.
The answer variable to be predicted was categorical with 5 levels, all possible values were A, B, C, D and E. OOB error rates are charted in Appendix D.

For both the SVM and RF models, the test set of 20 values (found in file "pml-testing.csv") were scored with Rattle into a CSV output file (named "pml-training_score_idents.csv"), producing the following results. The column #2 "rf" was used to provide feedback to the Coursera assignemt quiz.

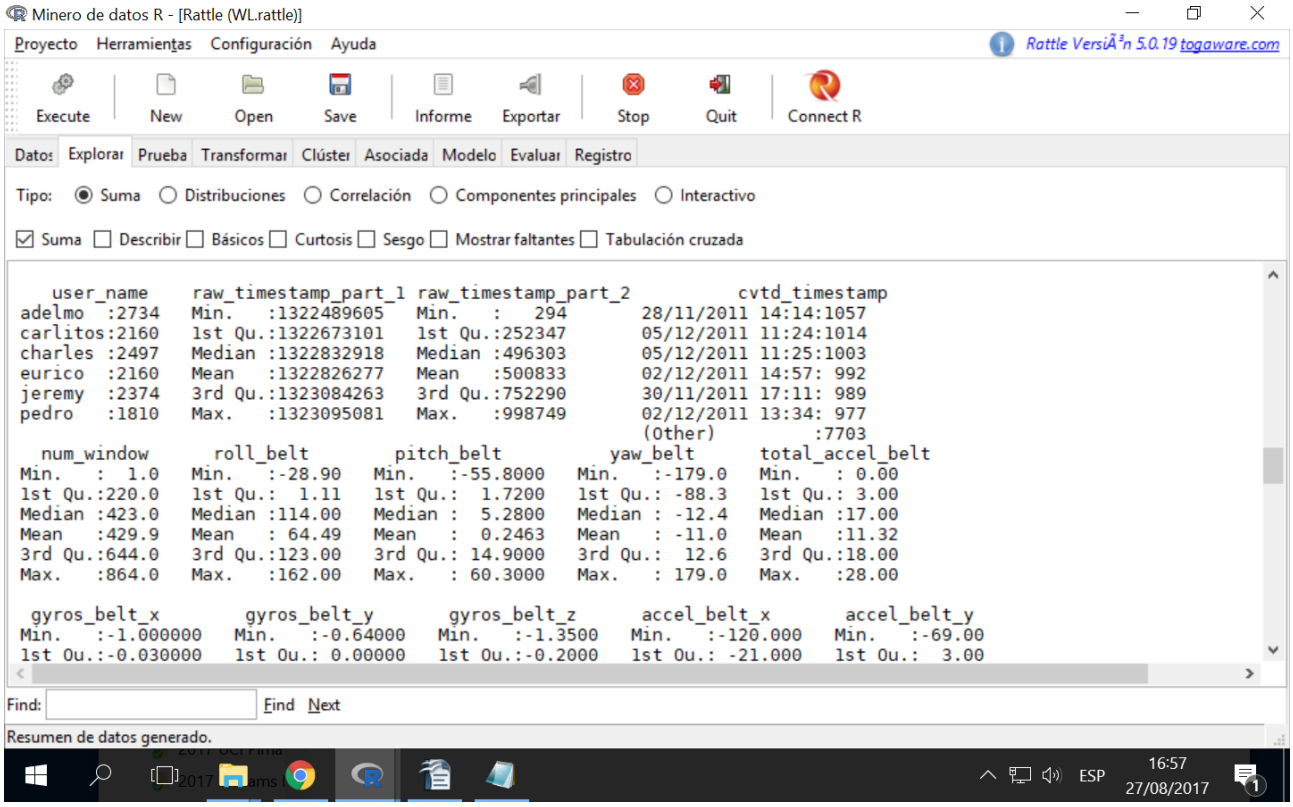
"X"	"rf"	"ksvm"
1	"A"	"A"
2	"A"	"B"
3	"B"	"B"
4	"A"	"A"
5	"A"	"A"
6	"C"	"E"
7	"C"	"D"
8	"B"	"B"
9	"A"	"D"
10	"A"	"B"
11	"B"	"C"
12	"C"	"A"
13	"B"	"D"
14	"A"	"A"
15	"C"	"E"
16	"E"	"A"
17	"E"	"E"
18	"B"	"B"
19	"A"	"A"
20	"B"	"B"

Note: in order to evaluate the test set (file "pml-testing.csv") with Rattle, it was required to add the "classe" column to the file filling it with dummy values including at least one for each level (from Ä" to "E").

Appendix A. Rattle – Variable classification (type, input, ignore, answer)



Appendix B. Rattle - Statistical summary.



Appendix C. Rattle generated R code.

Refer ro file "wl.R" file in the repository.

Appendix D. Rattle OOB error rates chart for training set.