Analysis of the Weight Lifting Exercises Dataset

Carlos Crosetti (carlos.crosetti@gmail.com) - August 28, 2017.

Document history

Date	Description		
08/28/17	As submitted into the Coursera Assignment		
09/01/17	Minor typos		
10/02/17	Added note about the use of the fix() function to align the answer file with the training set		

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 ultimately 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 of the training dataset structure reveals 160 columns, with lots of variables populated with missing values. Variables showing more than 90% missing values were marked to be ignored by Rattle. Some variables (like "new window") showing constant values were also excluded 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) showing loose correlation among them.



Model building

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

The training set was partitioned into three subsets: 70% for training, 15% for validation and 15% for testing.

A initial run of rhe SVM showed unacceptable results in terms of error (10% approx). Below is the confusion matrix for the SVM output 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
       3 32 457 5 0 8.0
      0 5 44 404 34 17.0
          1 1 33 513
Error matrix for the SVM model on pml-training.csv [validate] (proportions):
     Predicted
                 С
    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
    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 rejected 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:
           C D
    Α
       В
                    E class.error
A 3898
       0 0 0 0.00000000
    1 2661 3 0 0 0.001500938
       2 2411 1 0 0.001242751
С
  0
  0 0 5 2250 2 0.003101462
D
Ε
       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.

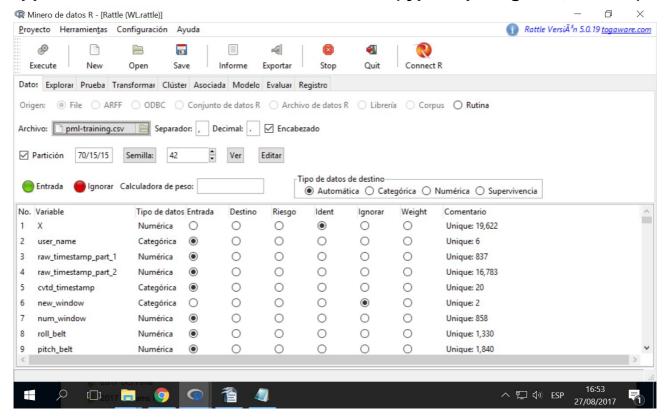
The answer variable to be predicted ("classe") was identified as categorical with 5 levels, all possible values were A, B, C, D and E. OOB error rates are charted in Appendix D.

For both the SVM and RF models, the test set of 20 values given from Coursera (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 final quiz.

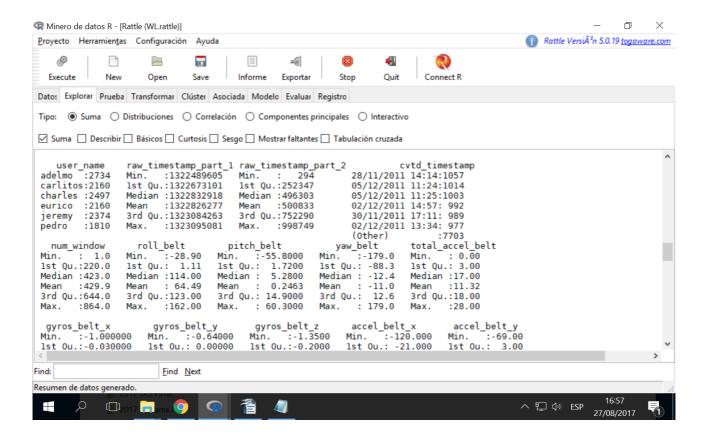
"X"	"rf"	"ksvm'
1	l "A"	"A"
2	2"A"	"B"
3	3 "B"	"B"
4	1 "A"	"A"
Ę	5 "A"	"A"
6	3"C"	"E"
	7 "C"	
8	3 "B"	"B"
ç)"A"	"D"
10) "A"	"B"
11	l "B"	"C"
12	2 "C"	"A"
13	3 "B"	"D"
14	1 "A"	"A"
15	5 "C"	"E"
16	3"E"	"A"
17	7 "E"	"E"
18	3 "B"	"B"
19)"A"	"A"
20) "B"	"B"

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"). To align the dataset sructure, the fix() function was called from the R console.

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

