

Virtual Coach

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Motivation

Health and Physical fitness has become the top priority of the current era and with the everyday busy schedule, it has become challenging to be disciplined in our physical activities. Wearable devices solve majority of the challenges, by reminding us to move and sweat everyday. Too much of anything is not good, but how do we know that we are overworking and getting burnt out? Our motivation is to build an intelligence layer on top of the current wearable devices, that leverages the features that are currently collected through wearable devices and provide real time recommendations to the user during the activity.

Context

Every human body is different and Heartrate is a direct measure of the extent to which we are pushing our body. The highest heartrate for a human is approximately (220 bpm - Age of the individual). For someone who is 20 years of age, the maximum heartrate is limited to 200 bpm. The range of 100bpm leading to the maximum limit is the activity zone. For a 20 year old individual, the activity range is between 100 to 200. This range can be split into 5 zones.

		EXERCISE ZONES									
		AGE									
		20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	65	70
BEATS PER MINUTE	100%	200	195	190	185	180	175	170	165	155	150
		VO ₂ Max (Maximum effort)									
	90%	180	176	171	167	162	158	153	149	140	135
		Anaerobic (Hardcore training)									
	80%	160	156	152	148	144	140	136	132	124	126
		Aerobix (Cardio training / Endurance)									
	70%	140	137	133	130	126	123	119	116	109	105
		Weight control (Fitness / Fat burn)									
	60%	120	117	114	111	108	105	102	99	93	90
		Moderate activity (Maintenance / Warm up)									
	50%	100	98	95	93	90	88	85	83	78	75

- Zone 1: 100 - 120 Easy / Moderate Activity
- Zone 2: 121 - 140 Fat burn / Weight Control
- Zone 3: 141 - 160 Cardio / Aerobic
- Zone 4: 161 - 180 Perform / Anaerobic
- Zone 5: 181 - 200 Peak / Maximum effort / Vo2 Max

Depending on the individual goals, we need to ensure that the user is on the respective zone. For someone who is a beginner, they should reside in Zone 1 / 2, for someone who trains regularly, should reside in Zone 4. For someone who wants to get back to shape should reside in Zone 3.

Objective

To build an intelligence layer on top the wearable devices, that learns the pattern of heartrate across different activities, temperature, altitude, body temperature conditions that guides the user to stay on the aspired zone.

Dataset

An athlete's sports activity data with their consent has been used for this analysis. The dataset captures the information about the athlete every second during an activity. About 36 activity data has been collected, and the features measured were Heartrate, Altitude, Distance covered, Stride count. External environmental variables such as Temperature, Humidity are procured externally for the day of the activity.

- Activity data
Dataset count: 36
Features per dataset: 11
Observations per dataset: 30,000 (Approximately)
- Weather and external variables
Features per dataset: 3 (Temperature, Humidity, Precipitation)
Observations: Day level
- Parsing and Importing
Activity datasets are in csv format, and the datasets are pushed into SQLite3 database with a

indicator for every activity

- Analysis

The key questions below were answered through writing SQL queries

Weather dataset was sparse and we were not able to collect data for all the activities

1. How much time an athlete spends in every zone?
2. Do they switch between zones or they move in a linear fashion?
3. What is the time taken by an athlete to warmup before entering into another zone?
4. Did the athlete get into the risk Zone 5?
5. How long did the athlete spend in Zone 5?

- Inference

Based on the above insights, we decided that predicting the risk of athlete entering the risk zone 3 minutes head will be helpful, not too early not too late, as the athlete can still act on it and avoid the risk

- Utility Functions

There was scope for us to define custom metrics to explain the zone transference better so we consumed the raw features and computed the below mentioned custom features. We have modularized the python codes as utility functions for future reference. Also a set of inputs are accepted from the user, which will help us define the target zone and other assumptions required for zone definition.

1. Heart rate metrics
2. Elevation metrics
3. Speed metrics
4. Zone metrics
5. Missing value treatment
 - i. This step is contextual, if heartrate metric is missing we replace it with the previous second metric
 - ii. If elevation gain is missing, we replace it with 0
6. Data prep module
 - i. Based on the previous analysis, we knew the activities during which the athlete has actually ventured into Zone 5, so based on that we sampled the activities into train and test
 - ii. This module computes the heartrate after 180 seconds for every datapoint and labels that as response variable
 - iii. Standard scaling is performed on the dataset
 - iv. PCA is performed to reduce the number of components for model train
 - v. Similarly the above steps were done for test dataset as well
7. Model build and Testing module
 - i. This module builds SVM linear kernel model and predicts the risk of the athlete venturing into Risk zone 180 seconds ahead of time
 - ii. The model is tested on the hold out dataset and the performance was observed as 97%
 - iii. The performance has lot of scope of improvement as the case of Zone 5 is sparse and most of the cases are still predicted as non-risk cases

- Learnings

1. Even when the raw data is available in a flat file format, there can be some anomalies in it and it has to be treated
2. The treatment need not be same for all metrics, few metrics like heartrate can be treated with the previous value, and elevation gain has to be treated differently
3. The most exciting piece in any prediction is feature engineering, so we need to come up

- with features that clearly exhibit the characteristic that we are interested in
4. The algorithm can be chosen based on experiment, we won't be able to assess the required algorithm based on the problem at hand
 5. Clear documentation is the key, especially when multiple people are working on the same project