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FB-PROPHET MODEL FOR TIME SERIES FORECASTING IN SALES

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Abstract

Forecasting techniques based on time series analysis are applied in various fields such as banking, sales, stock market, and healthcare. Forecasting chain of ten stores in sales using time series can improve sales in the business environments. Recently, there are many tools to use for forecasting, but the Facebook Prophet (FB) tool is the latest and has demonstrated its effectiveness in term of accuracy. This paper proposes the FB Prophet tool to forecast the data of chain of ten stores. Based on the experiment, it is concluded that FB Prophet is a highly accurate predictive model and shows positive outcomes.

Keywords: FB-Prophet, Prediction, Time series.

1. Introduction

Time series data analysis is helpful to achieve worthwhile statistics and many other attributes of data in an overall business environment. Time series forecasting models play a crucial role in forecasting models, where time is considered as a key factor. These forecasting models have a great influence on predicting sales in the future and managing the operation of business. It is also vital since various forecasts involve time of many components which should be addressed with care in order to make predictions when the actual outcome is unidentified. In order to identify the primary element of an event in time series, it is necessary to clearly understand the data pattern involved to time. There are four main components in time series analysis of data, namely level, trend, seasonality, and noise. The level component is considered the fundamental value employed in time series data, the seasonality component is represented as a curve that can rise or decline over the period of time. Moreover, seasonality is expressed as a cycle or pattern over the period of time and noise reveals variation in data observed.

Recently, an open source, named forecasting tool FB prophet which is popular for use in the library of python and R programming languages was developed by Facebook. From the perspective of business, FB prophet was generated to meet forecasting needs in sales. FB prophet has attributes related to time series data which is observed hourly, daily and monthly from year to year. FB prophet also considers break intervals or holidays which are known in advance. Additionally, FB prophet takes into account trends, outlier detection, and missing data.

Furthermore, Prophet works on a regression model with trends related to a regression curve or a modular curve for an increasing trend, a seasonal component based on Fourier series, a seasonal component weekly.

FB prophet is relied on the technique of curve fitting in Bayesian model. It is easy to understand parameters and it also does not request a lot of time series data for forecasting. This technique is best suited when seasonal properties are indicated as strong influencing factors in time series data. FB prophet handles better in case of missing data, variating trends and detecting outliers. In real-world situations, such as sales

predictions, such variations must be tackled. In this paper, we perform the analysis of univariate time series for chain store sales data employing FB Prophet tool.

2. Related works

Many studies have been done to forecast time series employing FB prophet in different areas. In [2], the forecasting framework is used to predict future demand for product categories. The developed method also indicates the time series curve for each product in the product category. In [3], an adaptive Kalman filter is employed together with FB Prophet so as to forecast maximum power demand with improved predictability. In [4], SARIMA and FB oracle algorithms are employed to forecast power grid failures. ARIMA model and its steps are discovered in this proposed model.

Shikha Gaur et al. [5] proposes a prediction model based on prophet ARIMA and FB to predict the trend of COVID-19 infections. This proposed model helps identify outbreaks and irregularities of COVID-19 in India and abroad. Nevertheless, the research is constraint on the healthcare sector and could not be used for the areas of sales and e-commerce. In [6], Liyun Su et al. uses the polynomial function to approximate coefficients in autoregressive prediction. These models can perform better based on the technique of FB prophet.

A number of research relied on neural networks has been implemented in the field of time series forecasting between 2006 and 2016. In [7], these methods related to neural network are reviewed by Ahmed Tealab. In [8], CemKocaket et al. suggests a fuzzy autoregressive moving average (ARMA). In [9], forecasting models ARIMA and FB Prophet are employed to forecast closing prices of stock markets. This method works with the dataset which is separated into two phases, namely training and validation set which depend on daily, weekly and monthly transactions. The results show that ARMA-based model only works efficiently in short-term predictions like daily or weekly while prophet FB gives good results for long-term stock predictions like monthly or yearly. Research work is primarily limited to predict the prices of stock, and these models are implemented to sales prediction. In [10], a similar predicting approach is developed to predict stock prices, but it should be improved the overall performance of the predictive model. Time series analysis plays a key factor to predict health perception and prevention-involved information to the society.

A similar study was performed for the sectors of health and air pollution [11, 12, 13] to predict pollution harm and mortality rates in different nations. According to Poisson regression and GAM, S-Plus' generalized additive modeling (GAM) software is tested [11] to analyze time series data on the number of air pollution deaths. GAM is considered as expansion of a linear model based on a non-parametric function. FB-based method can make an improvement to predict accuracy in time series analysis of data.

Merchandisers and entrepreneurs employ tools involving demand forecasting to plan the operations of business. Various tools are available to perform such forecasting either model-based or model-free. Among them, the model-based method is more powerful. Cyclic Boosting supervised learning which is an effective approach is one of model-based approaches [14]. The primary concept of the proposed method is to take advantage of the benefaction of each attribute to predict the objective function. The Cyclic Boosting

supervised learning method is also based on the kernel regression model and uses normalization technique to refine the model while smoothing technique removes noise. However, FB prophet performs better in case of simplicity and gives more accurate results. In [15], an ARIMA model predicts environmental degradation. According to NLP and Fuzzy C Means, this method uses Microsoft Power BI to analyze data, display and customize the dashboard. The performance of this method is better than preceding approaches, but FB prophet is much more accurate and ease of use when predicting issues related to time series.

3. FB prophet model

Based on an additive regression model, FB prophet [1] prediction can be expressed as (1):

$$y(t) = g(t) + h(t) + s(t) + e_t$$
 (1)

Where: y(t) is the additive regression model, g(t) is the trend factor, h(t) is the holiday component, s(t) is the seasonal component, and e(t) is the error term. The trend factor g(t) can be modeled as Logistic Growth Model and Piece-wise linear model. Logistic Growth Model which is expressed as (2) indicates growth in different stages. The growth in the first stage grows exponentially, then reaches a period of saturation, from which it is linear growth.

$$f(x) = \frac{L}{1 + e^{-k(x - x_0)}} \tag{2}$$

Where: L depicts the maximum value of the model curve; k is denoted as the growth rate; x_0 is expressed as the value of x at sigmoid point.

Additionally, Piece-wise linear model shown as (3) is customize based on the linear model where x shows various range with distinguished linear relationships.

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 (x - c)^+ + \varepsilon \tag{3}$$

The method employed for time series forecasting based on FB Prophet is depicted in Figure 1.

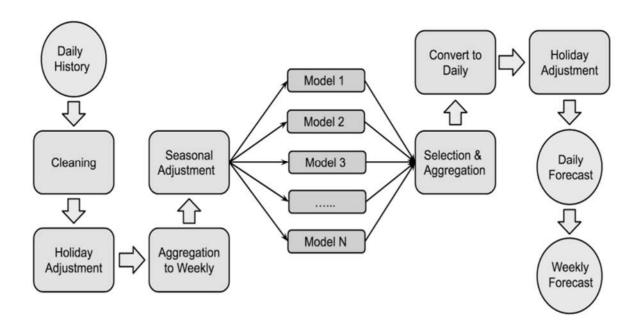


Figure 1. Diagram of time series forecast

4. Data description and evaluation metrics

4.1. Data description

The store chain dataset of ten stores is used in this paper [16]. This dataset was collected over a 5-year period from 2013 to 2017. The data field of the dataset includes: date, store, item, and sales. Figure 2 reveals the total daily sales of all stores. Figure 3 shows the total daily sales for each store. Total daily sales seems to be trending fairly steadily and gives an indication that the FB prophet model may be suitable for predicting store-level sales.

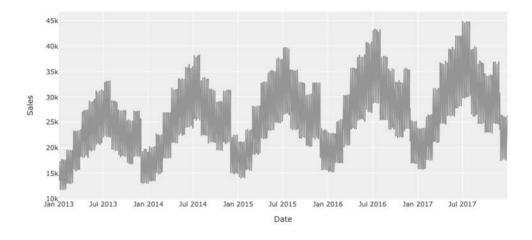


Figure 2. Total daily sales of all stores

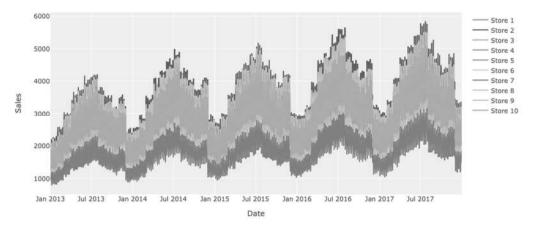


Figure 3. Total sales by day by each store

4.2. Evaluation metrics

In this paper, the evaluation metric to consider the accuracy in FB prophet models is the weighted mean absolute percentage error (WMAPE) [17]. Based on opinions of many business professionals, financial data analysts, and accountants, WMAPE metric has high reliability to evaluate the accuracy of the forecasting models.

WMAPE is a way to measure the accuracy of financial and statistical projections relative to actual or actual results for a sample. The different parts of WMAPE are weight, mean, absolute, percentage, and error. Weighted means that there is a component against the measurement results of the computation. Average means that the result of this calculation is an average of the accuracy of the predictions. Absolute means that regardless of whether the actual result is more or less than predicted, the computation will

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provide a positive number. Percentage means the computation results in percentage format for ease of use. The error means that the result of the computation is a measure of the difference between the forecast and the actual result.

Typically, WMAPE is used to compare forecasts over a long period of time, which reveals a general trend as to whether forecast is accurate rather than a very specific date or time. WMAPE can be used in conjunction with other predictive measurements to better understand the accuracy and responsiveness of data models. The formula for WMAPE is expressed as (4):

WMAPE =
$$\frac{1}{n} * \frac{\sum (|Actual - Forecasted|)}{Actual} * 100$$
 (4)

Where: *n* is the size of the sample; *Actual* is the actual value for a certain period of time, *Forecasted* is the expected value over a certain period of time.

5. Results

The results of the store sales prediction of 10 stores are shown in Figure 4. The blue line is the forecast value while the black dots are the actual value. We can see that the blue line matches the overall trend of the data with some outliers still present, which is a pretty good fit. In addition, we now need to test how successful the model is on data it hasn't seen yet, specifically 2018.

When forecasting trends in 2018, the WMAPE metric is used to measure the accuracy of the forecast trend in 2018. Table 1 describes the results of the WMAPE metric for the sales forecasting model of each store, from store 1 to store 10. Thereby, we see that the prediction results based on WMAPE metric are quite high, over 94% in all predictive models of stores.

Table 1. Results of WMAPE method for store-by-store forecasting model

Metric	Store 1	Store 2	Store 3	Store 4	Store 5	Store 6	Store 7	Store 8	Store 9	Store 10
WMAPE (%)	94.456	94.50	95.143	94.492	94.347	94.867	94.516	94.870	94.828	94.767

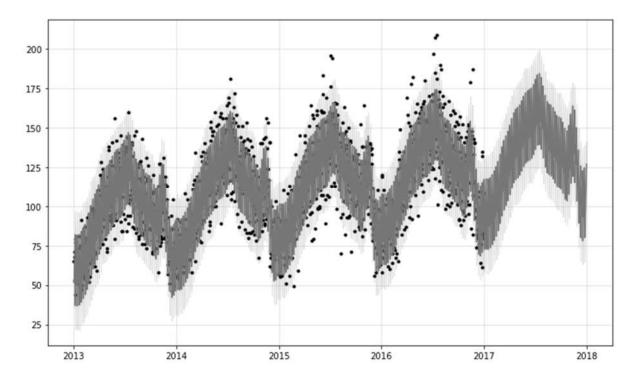


Figure 4. Forecasting results of 10 stores in sales

6. Conclusion

In the proposed research work, the FB Prophet model is implemented for sales forecasting. We utilize the store chain dataset of ten stores collected between 2013 and 2017 for testing. We have achieved that the prediction implemented using FB Prophet is extremely adjacent to reality. The proposed tool is indicating great performance in forecasting of time series data with minor error accuracy. Nevertheless, scalability is another challenge for the analysis of a large dataset. Transformation learning can be used together with FB Prophet in order to enhance scalability and handling of large datasets. Real-time forecasting with high accuracy relies on the model employed for training and validation.

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USING AI CODE IN C# PROGRAMMING

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Abstract:

Recently, the appearance of ChatGPT, a generating AI application tool, has been widely used and has attracted a lot of attention from the technology world. The application of ChatGPT has spread across different industries because the ability to answer the results is considered useful and the completion level of the results is very high. Based on ChatGPT's answer, users can adjust, add and expand to get the content they want without having to spend a lot of time and effort. Within the framework of the article, we will cover the aspect of leveraging the ChatGPT tool for programmers, software developers, or software engineers. The illustrative examples use C# language and other programming languages, ChatGPT also handles the same results. Making good use of this support tool will help build computer programs faster, saving programmers' effort. Especially for new programmers, you can take advantage of ChatGPT to better support your work.

Keywords: ChatGPT, computer programming, C# programmer, AI Code.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the explosion of applications using artificial intelligence platforms has brought about very positive effects. Previously, AI applications focused on specialized and specialized activities, serving groups and organizations, but today, AI has made strong development steps and crept into all human activities, can be likened to an extended arm, an extra brain for a person.

One of the AI applications that is known and widely used by the public in recent times is ChatGPT, an intelligent chatbot that can answer questions in many different fields and the results are evaluated by users. High. ChatGPT can generate content on demand and human descriptions of a certain field.

Within the framework of the article, ChatGPT applications will be presented to support programming work, accompanied by illustrative examples for each application. The selected programming language is C# (ChatGPT can answer all popular programming languages today). In addition, the article also gives some comments on the advantages and limitations of using this tool to support programming.

2. AI, Generative AI, ChatGPT and applications

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an area of computer science and technology that deals with the development of computer solutions and algorithms to help computers learn and make decisions on their own human. The main goal of artificial intelligence is to create intelligent computer systems capable of solving complex problems and making decisions based on information provided or gathered.

To achieve this goal, AI researchers must build mathematical models and algorithms to solve problems such as image recognition, natural language processing, data analysis, forecasting, decision support, and many other applications. This includes finding the most suitable approach to process input data, building machine learning models, and training these models through machine learning algorithms and techniques, deep learning, and more.

Artificial intelligence is widely applied in many fields, from applications such as facial recognition, autonomous vehicles, and financial investment advice to the fields of health, statistics, military, communication, education, and many other industries.

Generative AI is an area of artificial intelligence that focuses on creating new content, not limited by original training data. Using generative models such as Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) or Variational Autoencoders (VAEs), generative AI can generate images, music, text, and other content, based on input data.

In GANs, two neural network models interact, one called the generator model and the other called the discriminator model. The generative model tries to generate new samples from the training data, while the discriminant model tries to distinguish between the samples generated by the generative model and the real ones from the training data. The two models will interact with each other through the training process to create new samples of better quality.

In VAEs, an encoder model is used to convert the input data into a latent space, and then a decoder model is used to convert points in this latent space into new output data. Once trained, the model learns to generate new data based on the basic characteristics of the training data.

With its ability to create new and diverse content, generative AI has been used in a wide variety of applications, including photo and video production in the media and entertainment industries, creating newspaper content, and creating new content. and even new product designs. However, the use of generative AI also poses some challenges, including issues of ethics and the quality of the generated content.

2.1. What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is a group of AI applications in the direction of generating AI. Specifically, ChatGPT is a large automated language model trained by OpenAI, based on the Transformer Network's GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) architecture, and has dimensions up to millions of parameters. This model has the ability to read and understand the content of the input text, then give an answer or generate new text based on the context and available information.

ChatGPT is trained on a large amount of data from various sources on the Internet, including English and other languages. With the ability to automatically learn from data and improve quality over time, ChatGPT can answer questions, solve problems, and provide the information requested by users naturally and smartly.

ChatGPT has many practical applications, including support for chatbots, online conversations, customer support, education and research support, and many more.

Features of ChatGPT

Answer questions: ChatGPT can answer users' questions on a variety of topics, including history, science, entertainment, culture, business, and more.

Create new content: ChatGPT can generate text snippets, from product descriptions to longer articles, or even essays, letters, and more.

User interaction: ChatGPT can interact with users and answer their questions, discuss with them different topics, or give advice on something.

Language translation: ChatGPT can translate documents into many different languages, helping users to read and understand information from other languages.

Synthesize information: ChatGPT can aggregate information from different sources and help users save time searching for information.

Make predictions: ChatGPT can make predictions about future events or trends based on available data.

2.2. Applications

Education: ChatGPT can assist teachers/lecturers and students/students in teaching and learning. For example, ChatGPT can answer students' questions or guide teachers in lesson planning.

Health: ChatGPT can assist medical professionals in diagnosing diseases or providing medical information to users. For example, ChatGPT can answer questions related to disease symptoms, provide nutritional advice or guide users to perform exercises.

Business: ChatGPT can assist businesses in consulting products, services or managing customer care. For example, ChatGPT can answer questions about products, pricing, or warranties, or help customers with questions.

Communication: ChatGPT can assist journalists or media in writing articles, finding information, or providing information to readers. For example, ChatGPT can generate descriptions of an event or give advice to readers.

Scientific research: ChatGPT can assist researchers in finding information, analyzing data, or generating reports. For example, ChatGPT can search for scientific articles related to a specific topic or generate descriptive snippets of data.

History, society, current affairs: can aggregate information in ChatGPT database, and information on the Internet. In addition, the system can answer questions about general knowledge, providing simple explanations of complex in-depth concepts.

Other areas of synthesis: Giving advice on certain topics; Summarizing long paragraphs; Translating text into different languages.; Helps with language learning by providing definitions and examples of words and phrases; Creates personalized content, such as emails and social media posts; Creates music and art based on user input and preferences.

It can be said that ChatGPT's knowledge base is quite extensive, trained from big data, from many different sources, and updated regularly. So the ability to meet user requirements is quite good.

3. ChatGPT application in programming

Through part 2, ChatGPT has the ability to support many different fields, from general to specialized in certain narrow areas. In part 3, we will focus on presenting applications of ChatGPT to support computer programming. For each of the following application sections, only some typical and basic examples are given. From these examples, programmers can completely apply to similar and more complex situations. Just as ChatGPT's capabilities are not limited to computer programming languages, programmers can ask for any arbitrary computer language.

3.1 Generating source code

ChatGPT can understand and interpret the needs of programmers using its natural language processing skills and provide corresponding code snippets. When it comes to repetitive tasks or boilerplate code, this can save programmers a lot of time.

An example chatGPT generates source code at the request of the programmer as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Generating code on demand.

In the example, users can ask questions in Vietnamese language and the answering system is also in Vietnamese, including the source code of the sample function and a very detailed and easy to understand function explanation.

3.2 Find bugs or refactor the source code

In addition to generating source code according to the user's discretion, the system can help find errors or restructure the program code to be more compact.

In the example in Figure 2, the user enters a question and a program segment, and ChatGPT will answer and edit the source code.

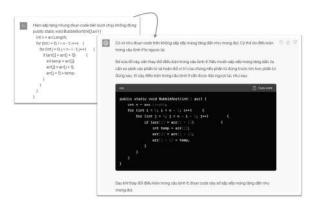


Figure 2. Fixing the bugs

In the above source code, there is a mistake by the programmer, so the program execution is only about to decrease, not increase as expected. ChatGPT detects this error and explains it in detail and then recommends more accurate source code.

An example is followed in Figure 3, giving ChatGPT a correct but not optimal program and the system has given the optimized source code very neatly and explained very clearly.



Figure 3. Optimizing the source code.

3.3 Writing the documentation

ChatGPT has the ability to read and understand source code and perform documentation writing for that source code. This is a very useful feature that saves a lot of time for programmers.

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Figure 4. Generating documentations

For Visual Studio C#'s XML Documentation tool, only the framework can be generated, and the interpretation content must be filled in by the programmer. ChatGPT can parse and understand the source code and generate XML Documentation that describes the exact function and meaning of each component of the function in the above program.

3.4 Writing the test cases

In the illustrative example (Figure 5), the user will ask the system to write a test case to find the error of the program segment. And the system specified the error and gave the test case of the error case.



Figure 5. Test cases.

It can be said that generating test cases for the program is a very necessary job in the program testing phase. This is also quite a time-consuming and labor-intensive job, so using ChatGPT can improve the efficiency of the testing phase of software development.

3.5 Creating sample data

When running a program test, the programmer needs some sample data to run and test the functions. ChatGPT can be used to generate data patterns based on the provided source code.

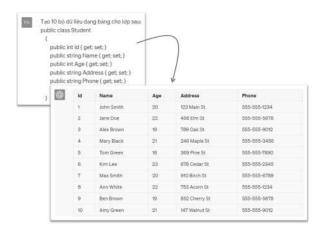


Figure 6. Sample data.

Depending on the needs of using test data, the programmer can describe more details so that ChatGPT can create the test data set exactly as the programmer wants.

4. Some comments about using ChatGPT in programming

Some of the advantages of using ChatGPT in programming support are as follows:

- 1. Quickly support repetitive jobs, thereby saving programmers' time and effort.
- 2. With the ability to analyze and understand the program segment, ChatGPT can help improve the quality of the program through code improvement, debugging, and other suggestions for optimization.
- 3. Combining search and information synthesis intelligently, so it will help a lot in programming. Instead of using a regular search engine, you can use ChatGPT for more optimal results.
 - 4. The ability to support all current programming languages is the strength of ChatGPT.

However, besides the advantages, the quality of the answer also depends on many factors, such as the complexity of the question, the way the question is asked, and the additional or guiding information. so that ChatGPT can quickly approach answering in the desired direction of the user. In addition, when receiving results from ChatGPT, programmers also need to add or adjust the content to be more complete, or more accurate to the requirements of the programmer.

5. Conclusion

In the article, we have presented the basic parts of the ChatGPT application, an artificial intelligence generator, that have been widely applied in recent times. This focus on introducing ChatGPT applications for programmers, these applications will help improve work efficiency and save programmers' time and effort. In the framework of the article, we have only presented the basic applications, and the tests are not many. In the future, we will continue to study deeply the applications of ChatGPT for different stages in the software development process.

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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, COOPERATION AND GLOBAL INTEGRATION IN THE NEW NORMAL



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