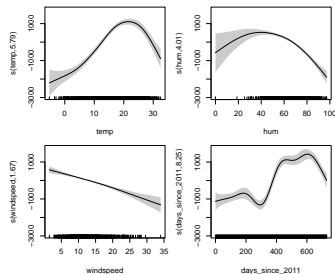


Interpretable Machine Learning

GAM & Boosting



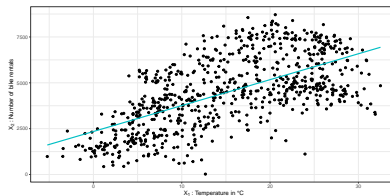
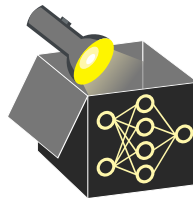
Learning goals

- Generalized additive model
- Model-based boosting with simple base learners
- Feature effect and importance in model-based boosting

GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODEL (GAM)

► Hastie and Tibshirani (1986)

Problem: LM not great if features act on outcome non-linearly



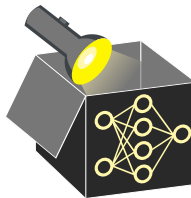
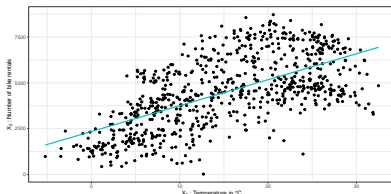
GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODEL (GAM)

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Problem: LM not great if features act on outcome non-linearly

Workaround in LMs / GLMs:

- Feature transformations (e.g., exp or log)
- Including high-order effects
- Categorization of features (i.e., intervals/buckets of feature values)



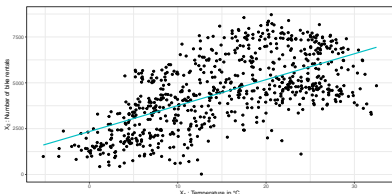
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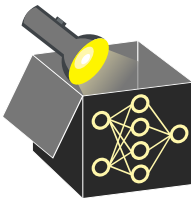


Idea of GAMs:

- Instead of linear terms $\theta_j x_j$, use flexible functions $f_j(x_j) \rightsquigarrow$ splines

$$g(\mathbb{E}(y \mid \mathbf{x})) = \theta_0 + f_1(x_1) + f_2(x_2) + \dots + f_p(x_p)$$

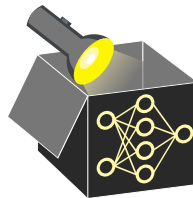
- Preserves additive structure and allows to model non-linear effects
- Splines have a smoothness parameter to control flexibility (prevent overfitting)
 \rightsquigarrow Needs to be chosen, e.g., via cross-validation



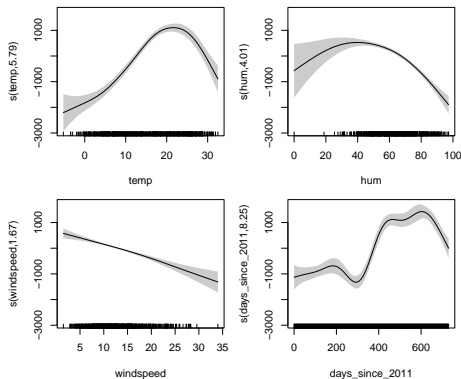
GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODEL (GAM) - EXAMPLE

Fit a GAM with smooth splines for four numeric features of bike rental data

↪ more flexible and better model fit but less interpretable than LM



	edf	p-value
s(temp)	5.8	0.00
s(hum)	4.0	0.00
s(windspeed)	1.7	0.00
s(days_since_2011)	8.3	0.00



Interpretation

- Interpretation is performed visually and relative to average prediction
- Edf: effective degrees of freedom
↪ represents degree of smoothness/complexity

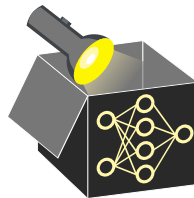
MODEL-BASED BOOSTING

► Bühlmann, Yu 2003

► Bühlmann, Hothorn 2008

- Boosting iteratively combines weak base learners to create powerful ensemble
- Idea: Use simple BLs (e.g univariate, with splines) to ensure interpretability
- Possible to combine BL of same type (with distinct parameters θ and θ^*):

$$b^{[j]}(\mathbf{x}, \theta) + b^{[j]}(\mathbf{x}, \theta^*) = b^{[j]}(\mathbf{x}, \theta + \theta^*)$$



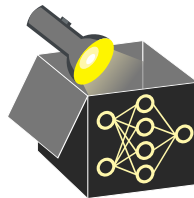
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$$b^{[j]}(\mathbf{x}, \theta) + b^{[j]}(\mathbf{x}, \theta^*) = b^{[j]}(\mathbf{x}, \theta + \theta^*)$$

- In each iteration, fit a set of BLs, add best one to model (with step-size ν):

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{f}^{[1]} &= \hat{f}_0 + \nu b^{[3]}(\mathbf{x}_3, \theta^{[1]}) \\ \hat{f}^{[2]} &= \hat{f}^{[1]} + \nu b^{[3]}(\mathbf{x}_3, \theta^{[2]}) \\ \hat{f}^{[3]} &= \hat{f}^{[2]} + \nu b^{[1]}(\mathbf{x}_1, \theta^{[3]}) \\ &= \hat{f}_0 + \nu \left(b^{[3]}(\mathbf{x}_3, \theta^{[1]} + \theta^{[2]}) + b^{[1]}(\mathbf{x}_1, \theta^{[3]}) \right) \\ &= \hat{f}_0 + \hat{f}_3(\mathbf{x}_3) + \hat{f}_1(\mathbf{x}_1)\end{aligned}$$

- Final model is additive GAM, we can read off effect curves

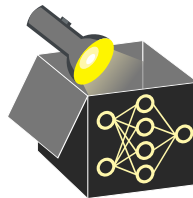


MODEL-BASED BOOSTING - LINEAR EXAMPLE

Simple case: Use linear model with single feature (including intercept) as BL

$$b^{[j]}(x_j, \theta) = x_j \theta + \theta_0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, p \quad \rightsquigarrow \text{ordinary linear regression}$$

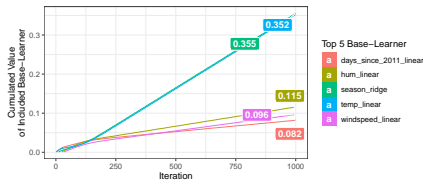
- Here: Interpretation of weights as in LM
- After many iterations, it converges to same solution as LM



1000 iter. with $\nu = 0.1$	Intercept	Weights
days_since_2011	-1791.06	4.9
hum	1953.05	-31.1
season	0	WINTER: -323.4 SPRING: 539.5 SUMMER: -280.2 FALL: 67.2
temp	-1839.85	120.4
windspeed	725.70	-56.9
offset	4504.35	

⇒ Converges to solution of LM

Relative frequency of selected BLs across iterations

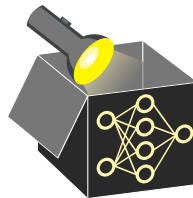


MODEL-BASED BOOSTING - LINEAR EXAMPLE

Simple case: Use linear model with single feature (including intercept) as BL

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- Here: Interpretation of weights as in LM
- After many iterations, it converges to same solution as LM
- Early stopping allows feature selection & may prevent overfitting (regularization)



1000 iter. with $\nu = 0.1$	Intercept	Weights
days_since_2011	-1791.06	4.9
hum	1953.05	-31.1
season	0	WINTER: -323.4 SPRING: 539.5 SUMMER: -280.2 FALL: 67.2
temp	-1839.85	120.4
windspeed	725.70	-56.9
offset	4504.35	

⇒ Converges to solution of LM

20 iter. with $\nu = 0.1$	Intercept	Weights
days_since_2011	-1210.27	3.3
season	0	WINTER: -276.9 SPRING: 137.6 SUMMER: 112.8 FALL: 20.3
temp	-1118.94	73.2
offset	4504.35	

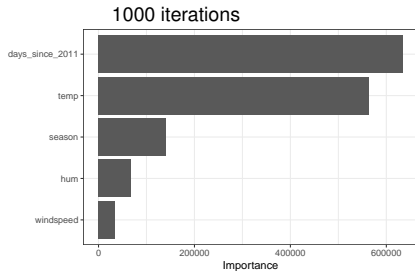
⇒ 3 BLs selected after 20 iter. (feature selection)

LINEAR EXAMPLE: INTERPRETATION



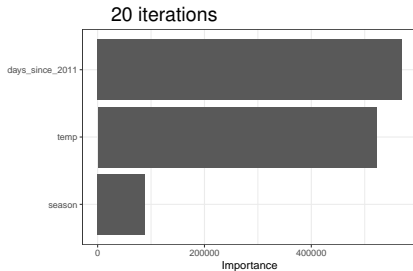
Feature importance: aggregated change in risk in each iteration per feature

- E.g. iteration 1: `days_since_2011` with risk reduction (MSE) of 140,782.94
- For every iteration the change in risk can be attributed to a feature



In-bag-risk: 434,686.0

OOB risk (10-fold CV): 446,450.0



In-bag-risk: 693,505.0

OOB risk (10-fold CV): 705,776.0

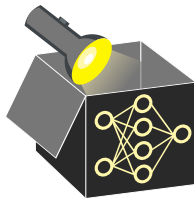
⇒ Difference in risk: 258,819.0

Difference in OOB risk: 259,326.0

NON-LINEAR EXAMPLE: INTERPRETATION

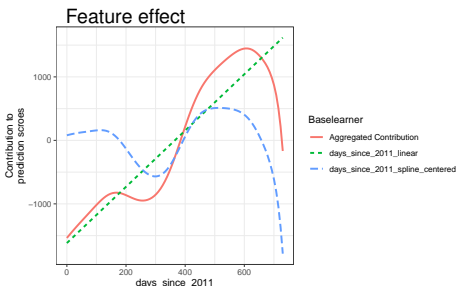
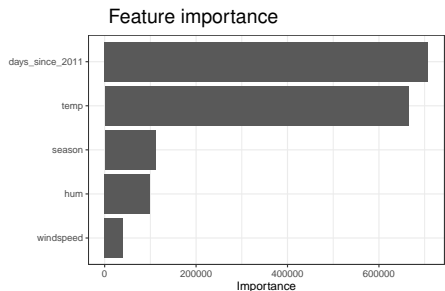
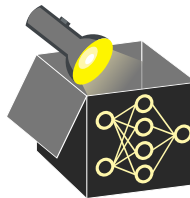
- Fit model on bike data with different BL types (1000 iter.)
- BLs: linear and centered splines for numeric features, categorical for season

► Daniel Schalk et al. 2018



NON-LINEAR EXAMPLE: INTERPRETATION

- Fit model on bike data with different BL types (1000 iter.) ▶ Daniel Schalk et al. 2018
- BLs: linear and centered splines for numeric features, categorical for season



⇒ In-bag-risk: 250,202.0 ; OOB risk (10-fold CV): 267,497.0 (difference to lin. example: 178,953.0)

⇒ In-bag-risk: 434,686.0 ; OOB risk (10-fold CV): 446,450.0 (previous lin. example with 1000 iter.)

- Feature importance (risk reduction over iter.)
 - ↪ days_since_2011 most important
- Total effect for days_since_2011
 - ↪ Combination of partial effects of linear BL and centered spline BL