

Introduction

This play talks about how to handle columns having dates as values. It shows converting dates to friendly format and extracting basic features of the date. Date variables are a special type of categorical variable. While, at first glance, a date gives us nothing more than a specific point on a timeline, when pre-processing properly, they can highly enrich the dataset. Common date formats contain numbers and sometimes text as well to specify months and days. Getting dates into a friendly format and extracting features of dates into new variables can be useful preprocessing steps.

Objective

In this Play, we will be learning the following :

1. How to convert the data type of a column to DateTime?
2. How to extract different features of a date like - month, day, year, quarter, etc ?
3. How to determine whether a day is a weekend or not?
4. Calculating difference between two dates
5. Calculating current date and time

End Point

At the end of this step, you will have an understanding of how to deal with columns having dates as values and you will be able to extract basic features of date.