Predict Flight Delay based on Linear Regression

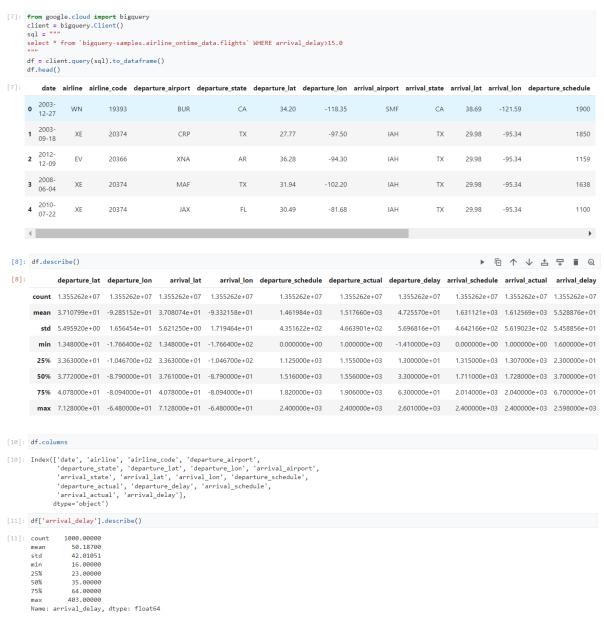
Data Description

The data set used for analysis contains data about flights leaving from 24 airlines and 344 arrival airport and 347 departure airport between 2002 to 2012. It was obtained from open data at `bigquery-samples.airline_ontime_data.flights`. It includes 70588485 lines of individual flight information with 17 columns and flight id-codes are also included from `bigquery-samples.airline_ontime_data.airline_id_codes`.

| date | object |
|--------------------|---|
| airline | object |
| airline_code | object |
| departure_airport | object |
| departure_state | object |
| departure_lat | float64 |
| departure_lon | float64 |
| arrival_airport | object |
| arrival_state | object |
| arrival_lat | float64 |
| arrival_lon | float64 |
| departure_schedule | Int64 |
| departure_actual | Int64 |
| departure_delay | float64 |
| arrival_schedule | Int64 |
| arrival_actual | Int64 |
| arrival_delay | float64 |
| dtype: object | |
| | airline airline_code departure_airport departure_state departure_lat departure_lon arrival_airport arrival_state arrival_lat arrival_lon departure_schedule departure_delay arrival_schedule arrival_actual arrival_delay |

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

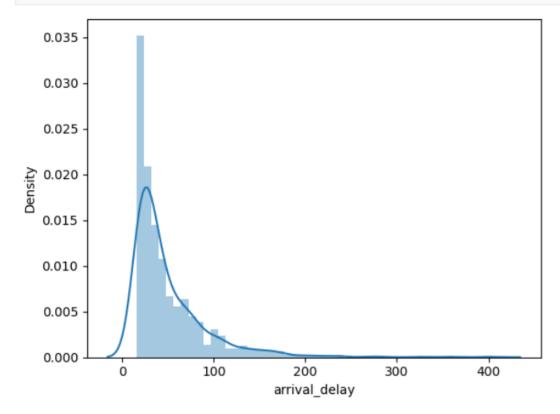
A flight is on-time if the arrival delay is within 15-min of the scheduled arrival time (CRSDepTime). A flight is delayed if the arrival delay is more than 15-min late from the scheduled arrival time (CRSDepTime). We would like to build an analysis dataset by choosing the threshold of 15 minutes, beyond which we consider the class change to "delayed" flight. This is a standard threshold in the aviation industry, with indicators on delayed flights commonly based on 15 minutes of delay. Thus, I will just keep the flights with arrival delay greater than 15.



Arrival Delay Distribution

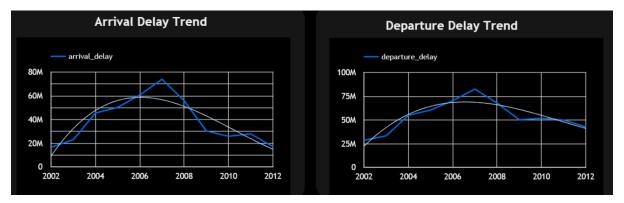
The x-axis for the plot is to scale and as a result, we can see that the arrival delay distribution, leans toward left.

```
[12]: import pandas as pd
  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
  import seaborn as sns
  import numpy as np
  from scipy.stats import norm
  from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
  from scipy import stats
  import warnings
  warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
  %matplotlib inline
[13]: sns.distplot(df['arrival_delay']);
```



Average Departure & Arrival Delay by Year

Next, we consider the impact of the years on the delays. A column chart with departure and arrival delay in minutes plotted by year is the most effective way to see the potential effects of the years.



Average Arrival and Departure delay by Airports

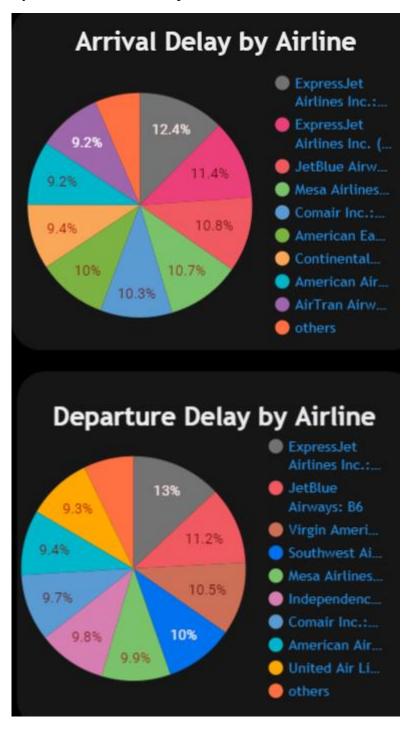
Next, we consider average Arrival and Departure delay by airports and we can see a few trends as arrival and departure delay by departure delay has some common airports like FMN, OGD, BFF and PUB but there is not significant difference in arrival airports.





Arrival and Departure delay by Airline

We can see from the graph below that ExpressJet Airlines and JetBlue Airlines cause major percentage of delays in both arrival and departure.



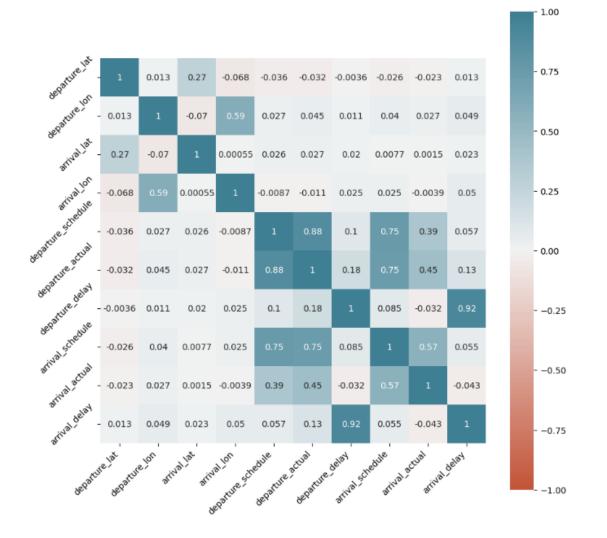
Correlation Analysis

Finally, before moving on to the modelling stage, I wanted to observe the correlation between the rows of the data frame. Below is the code I used to plot the correlation matrix. It showed that most columns had a relatively low (near zero) correlation with arrival delay, with the exception of the departure delay, which is expected. Though usually highly correlated columns are removed, I decided to include it as I think there is value in predicting the arrival delay when knowing the departure has been delayed.

From the below correlation coefficient heat map we can concur that for flight arrival delay prediction, the following features are potential candidates for the model:

- 1. Departure Longitude
- 2. Arrival Longitude
- 3. Departure Delay

```
plt.figure(figsize=(10,10))
corr = df.corr()
ax = sns.heatmap(
    corr,
    vmin=-1, vmax=1, center=0,
    cmap=sns.diverging_palette(20, 220, n=200),
    square=True, annot=True
)
ax.set_xticklabels(
    ax.get_xticklabels(),
    rotation=45,
    horizontalalignment='right'
)
ax.set_yticklabels(
    ax.get_yticklabels(),
    rotation=45,
);
```



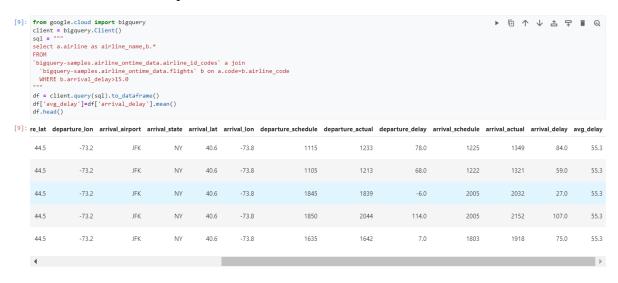
Data Modelling

Baseline Model

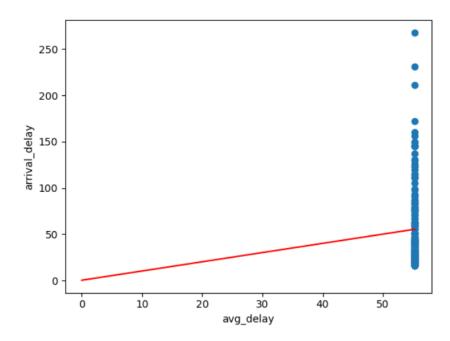
We begin by constructing a baseline model that we can use to compare to the other models. The baseline model I chose to use was simply to predict each flight's arrival delay to be the average arrival delay of its airline.

The avg_delay is already a column as we calculated the average delay of each airline then performed an inner join of this on our combined data frame during the EDA.

Next, we can use this as a predictor and evaluate the data loss and RMSE on the dataset.



Clearly, this is not a great predictor, as seen from the loss and RMSE. The RMSE is approximately the same as the standard deviation of the data, showing that it is a poor predictor. We will now use this as baseline for the following model.



Linear Regression

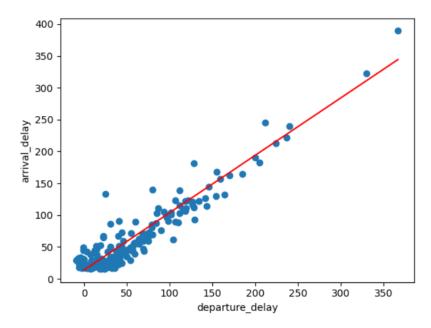
Next, I decided to use a linear regression model given that we want to output a continuous value (delay in minutes). I also chose to use it as I hypothesized that there may be a linear or more simplistic relationship between the features and labels; therefore, a linear regression could be a suitable model.

Using departure_delay as feature as it was the most correlated data row

```
[31]: # The following variables are the hyperparameters.
      learning_rate = 0.01
      epochs = 3
      batch_size = 150
      # Specify the feature and the label.
      my feature = "departure delay"
      my_label="arrival_delay"
      # Discard any pre-existing version of the model.
      my_model = None
      # Invoke the functions.
      my_model = build_model(learning_rate)
      weight, bias, epochs, rmse = train_model(my_model, df,
                                               my_feature, my_label,
                                               epochs, batch_size)
      print("\nThe learned weight for your model is %.4f" % weight)
      print("The learned bias for your model is %.4f\n" % bias )
      plot_the_model(weight, bias, my_feature, my_label)
      plot_the_loss_curve(epochs, rmse)
```

We can see that loss is reduced to 459 and RMSE is reduced to 21 but we can still do better.

The learned weight for your model is 0.9005 The learned bias for your model is 13.8253



Testing this to predict arrival_delay

```
[33]: predict_values(10, my_feature, my_label)
```

WARNING:tensorflow:5 out of the last 5 calls to <function Mode cessive number of tracings could be due to (1) creating @tf.fu e define your @tf.function outside of the loop. For (2), @tf.fide/function#controlling_retracing and https://www.tensorflow.

| | label value in minutes\$ | predicted value in minutes\$ |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 43 | 73 | 53 |
| 45 | 46 | 54 |
| -5 | 33 | 9 |
| 60 | 57 | 68 |
| 0 | 29 | 14 |
| 4 | 34 | 17 |
| 36 | 31 | 46 |
| 81 | 84 | 87 |
| 116 | 111 | 118 |
| 26 | 39 | 37 |
| | | |

Using feature-cross

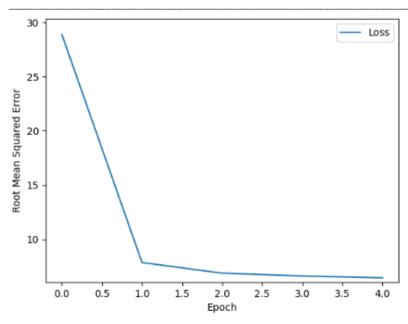
Using Feature-cross we can train our dataset on three features using **Input layers**.

The following code cell defines three <u>tf.keras.Input</u> layers, one to represent departure_lon, one to represent arrival_lon and one for departure_delay all as floating-point values.

This code cell specifies the features that we'll ultimately train the model on and how each of those features will be represented.

We can see that data loss is significantly reduced to 41 and RMSE is reduced to 6 but we can still do some optimizations as longitude and departure_delay as floating-point values does not have much predictive power. For example, flights originating from longitude 35 have not 36/35 less delay (or 35/36more delay) than flights originating from longitude 36.

```
Epoch 1/5
67/67 [=====
         ========================= ] - 1s 3ms/step - loss: 834.7586 - root_mean_squared_error: 28.8922
Epoch 2/5
67/67 [====
         :============================= ] - 0s 3ms/step - loss: 61.6263 - root_mean_squared_error: 7.8502
Epoch 4/5
67/67 [============== - 0s 3ms/step - loss: 43.6995 - root_mean_squared_error: 6.6106
Epoch 5/5
Model: "model 23"
Layer (type)
                        Output Shape
                                      Param # Connected to
departure_lon (InputLayer)
                       [(None, 1)]
arrival_lon (InputLayer)
                        [(None, 1)]
departure_delay (InputLayer)
                       [(None, 1)]
                                        0
                                                  []
concatenate_32 (Concatenate)
                        (None, 3)
                                                  ['departure_lon[0][0]',
                                                   'arrival_lon[0][0]',
                                                  'departure_delay[0][0]']
dense_layer (Dense)
                        (None, 1)
                                                  ['concatenate_32[0][0]']
Total params: 4
Trainable params: 4
Non-trainable params: 0
```



Represent longitude and delay in buckets

```
departure_lon: [-156.0, -155.0, -154.0, -153.0, -152.0, -152.0, -152.0, -152.0, -152.0, -152.0, -140.0, -140.0, -140.0, -146.0, -146.0, -146.0, -146.0, -142.0, -141.0, -140.0, -139.0, -138.0, -137.0, -136.0, -135.0, -138.0, -133.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0, -122.0
```

```
[74]: # The following variables are the hyperparameters.
   learning_rate = 0.04
   epochs = 35
   # Build the model.
   my_model = create_model(inputs, outputs, learning_rate)
   # Train the model on the training set.
   epochs, rmse = train_model(my_model, train_df,
                   epochs,
                   batch_size,
                   label_name)
   # Print out the model summary.
   my_model.summary(expand_nested=True)
   plot the loss curve(epochs, rmse)
   Epoch 1/35
   67/67 [====
             ==================== ] - 1s 7ms/step - loss: 2321.8091 - root_mean_squared_error: 48.1852
   Epoch 2/35
   67/67 [==========] - 0s 7ms/step - loss: 1501.3794 - root_mean_squared_error: 38.7476
   Epoch 3/35
   Epoch 4/35
   Epoch 5/35
   67/67 [=============] - 0s 7ms/step - loss: 142.7057 - root_mean_squared_error: 11.9460
   Epoch 6/35
   67/67 [===========] - 0s 7ms/step - loss: 23.8083 - root mean squared error: 4.8794
   Epoch 7/35
   Epoch 8/35
   67/67 [====
             Fnoch 9/35
   67/67 [=====
            Epoch 10/35
   67/67 [====:
              Epoch 11/35
```

67/67 [=========] - 0s 7ms/step - loss: 0.7696 - root mean squared error: 0.8773

We can see that loss is reduced to 0.0512 and RMSE is reduced to 0.1232.

In comparison to the original baseline model which had an RMSE of ~54, this is a significant improvement. Moreover, with the limited information and an SD of ~42, an RMSE of ~0.12 can be considered rather accurate.

| 67/67 [] | - 0s | 7ms/step | - | loss: | 0.0152 | - | root_mean_squared_error: 0.1232 |
|-------------------|------|----------|---|-------|--------|---|---------------------------------|
| Model: "model 24" | | | | | | | |

| Layer (type) | Output Shape | Param # | Connected to |
|---|--------------|---------|---|
| departure_lon (InputLayer) | [(None, 1)] | 0 | [] |
| arrival_lon (InputLayer) | [(None, 1)] | 0 | [] |
| departure_delay (InputLayer) | [(None, 1)] | 0 | [] |
| $\begin{array}{ll} {\tt discretization_d_lon~(Discretization)} \end{array}$ | (None, 1) | 0 | ['departure_lon[0][0]'] |
| <pre>discretization_a_lon (Discreti zation)</pre> | (None, 1) | 0 | ['arrival_lon[0][0]'] |
| discretization_delay (Discreti zation) | (None, 1) | 0 | ['departure_delay[0][0]'] |
| <pre>category_encoding_latitude (Ca tegoryEncoding)</pre> | (None, 93) | 0 | ['discretization_d_lon[0][0]'] |
| category_encoding_longitude (CategoryEncoding) | (None, 93) | 0 | ['discretization_a_lon[0][0]'] |
| <pre>category_encoding_delay (Categ oryEncoding)</pre> | (None, 769) | 0 | ['discretization_delay[0][0]'] |
| concatenate_33 (Concatenate) | (None, 955) | 0 | <pre>['category_encoding_latitude[0][0]', 'category_encoding_longitude[0][0]', 'category_encoding_delay[0][0]']</pre> |
| dense_layer (Dense) | (None, 1) | 956 | ['concatenate_33[0][0]'] |

Trainable params: 956

Splitting data set to test our model

We can see that we have a data loss of 6 and RMSE of 2.5 which is pretty accurate.

```
[90]: from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
     # Assuming your DataFrame is named 'train_df'
     train_df, test_df = train_test_split(train_df, test_size=0.2, random_state=200)
     # Now 'train_df' contains the training data, and 'test_df' contains the testing data.
     test_features = {name:np.array(value) for name, value in test_df.items()}
     test_label = np.array(test_features.pop(label_name))
     my_model.evaluate(x=test_features, y=test_label, batch_size=batch_size)
     /home/jupyter/.local/lib/python3.7/site-packages/keras/engine/functional.py:638: UserWarning: Input dict contained
     y'] which did not match any model input. They will be ignored by the model.
     inputs = self._flatten_to_reference_inputs(inputs)
     [90]: [6.262238502502441, 2.502446413040161]
```