

Bike Sharing Demand Prediction in Seoul

Zehua Wang, Ziman Jiang, Faye Fang, Yue Pan

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Introduction

Bike-Sharing systems are currently being widely introduced in urban areas to solve the “last mile” problem, i.e. improve the link between other modes of transportation. Bike-sharing systems facilitate the use of public transportation, enhance traffic troubles, as well as minimize greenhouse gas emissions. However, the availability and accessibility of sharing bikes could be a problem since the demand and supply of bikes are not stable.

This project aims to use machine learning and data-mining-based algorithms to predict the demand for rental bikes in Seoul City at each hour in order to provide a stable bike supply. The project is based on a dataset downloaded from UC Irvine Machine Learning Repository. The dataset contains the hourly public rental number of Seoul bikes with date and weather information (Temperature, Humidity, Wind speed, Visibility, Dew point, Solar radiation, Snowfall, Rainfall) for one year from December 2017 to November 2018. The number of rental bikes rented at every hour is determined from the bike rental history data collected from the Seoul Public Data Park website of South Korea.[1]

As all modes of transportation depend primarily on the weather conditions, including cycling, we assume that the corresponding climate conditions affect the total number of rental bikes rented at each hour. We also assume that date parameters such as weekdays may enhance the performance of the prediction model. Thus, weather details and date parameters are the covariates of the model.

In this paper, we compare different methods to see which one makes the best prediction of the rental bike number measured by root mean squared error.

Methodology

Linear Regression

Linear Regression Model (LM) is the simplest method to analyze the relationship of outcome Y and predictor X. The model is defined as below.

$$Y = \beta_0 + X^T \beta \quad (1)$$

In the regression, the coefficients β_0 and β could be estimated by solving the equation.

Ridge and LASSO

Ridge and LASSO regression estimates coefficients of multiple linear regression with the aim for lower variance. By minimizing the shrinkage penalty($\lambda \sum_{j=1}^k |\hat{\beta}_j^2|$ for Ridge and $\lambda \sum_{j=1}^k |\hat{\beta}_j|$ for LASSO) along with RSS, unnecessary estimated coefficients will be shrunk. The coefficient λ controls the magnitude of the penalty. As it increases, coefficients of Ridge tend towards 0 and coefficients of LASSO shrunk to absolute zero, leading to low variance and low bias. The major difference between two methods is that LASSO performs selection by removing variables when coefficients shrink to zero.

Random Forest and Bagging Forest

Random forest and Bagging forest generate a large number of bootstrapped decision trees, which perform binary splits on data at decision nodes, which are defined with a predictors' levels. At each node, features are selected from a random subsample of all features in the dataset. The feature that could split the dataset in a way that minimizes RSS for the model is selected. Out of Bag(OOB) score is used to validate random forest models. OOB samples are left-outs of each bootstrapping sample, used as a testset. OOB score is computed as the number of correct predictions, while OOB error rate is the number of wrong classifications of OOBs. Variables in the model are assessed by variable importance, which is penalized for large OOB error rate. A fundamental difference between bagging forest and random forest is that at each node, all features in the dataset are compared against each other. Therefore random forest increases the speed of model building as well as the variety in the use of features. Bagging forest is slower in model building speed and more restricted in the use of features in split ting. On the other hand, it could bring higher predictive accuracy, having better performance in minimizing MSE.

Support Vector Machine

Support Vector Machine(SVM) was designed for classification, and later the idea was generalized to regression. SVM regression is used in this project. In SVM regression, we would like to form a "band" around the true regression function that contains most of the points. With this purpose, the loss function is defined as below.

$$\mu(x) = \beta_0 + x^T \beta \quad (2)$$

If the point $(X,Y) = (x,y)$ is such that $|y - \mu(x)| \leq \epsilon$, then the loss is taken to be zero; otherwise the loss is taken to be $|y - \mu(x)| - \epsilon$. The main goal is to find a $\mu(x)$ such that most points with the loss taken to be zero.

Neural Network

Neural networks (NNs) are computing systems inspired by the way biological neural networks in the human brain process information. The tasks to which neural networks are applied tend to fall within the following broad categories including regression analysis, classification, and data processing.

We adopt the most basic one: *Feedforward Neural Network* (FFNN). Feedforward neural network was the first type of artificial neural network devised. It has only one direction from input layer formed by input nodes, through hidden layers and to out the output layer formed by output nodes. Specifically, we will adopt *Multilayer Perceptron* (MLP). A multilayer perceptron consists of at least three layers of nodes: an input layer, a hidden layer and an output layer. There are 8 hidden layers in our model.

The toolkit we used for building the neural network is *Keras*. Keras is a deep learning API (application programming interface) written in Python, running on top of the machine learning platform *TensorFlow*.

Dataset

Data description

The raw data is from the UCI machine learning repository, which is a collection of 8,760 bike rental records from 2017 to 2018. There are 14 variables in the dataset. The table shows the features of each variable. The dataset contains weather information (Temperature, Humidity, Windspeed, Visibility, Dewpoint, Solar radiation, Snowfall, Rainfall), the number of bikes rented per hour and date information.

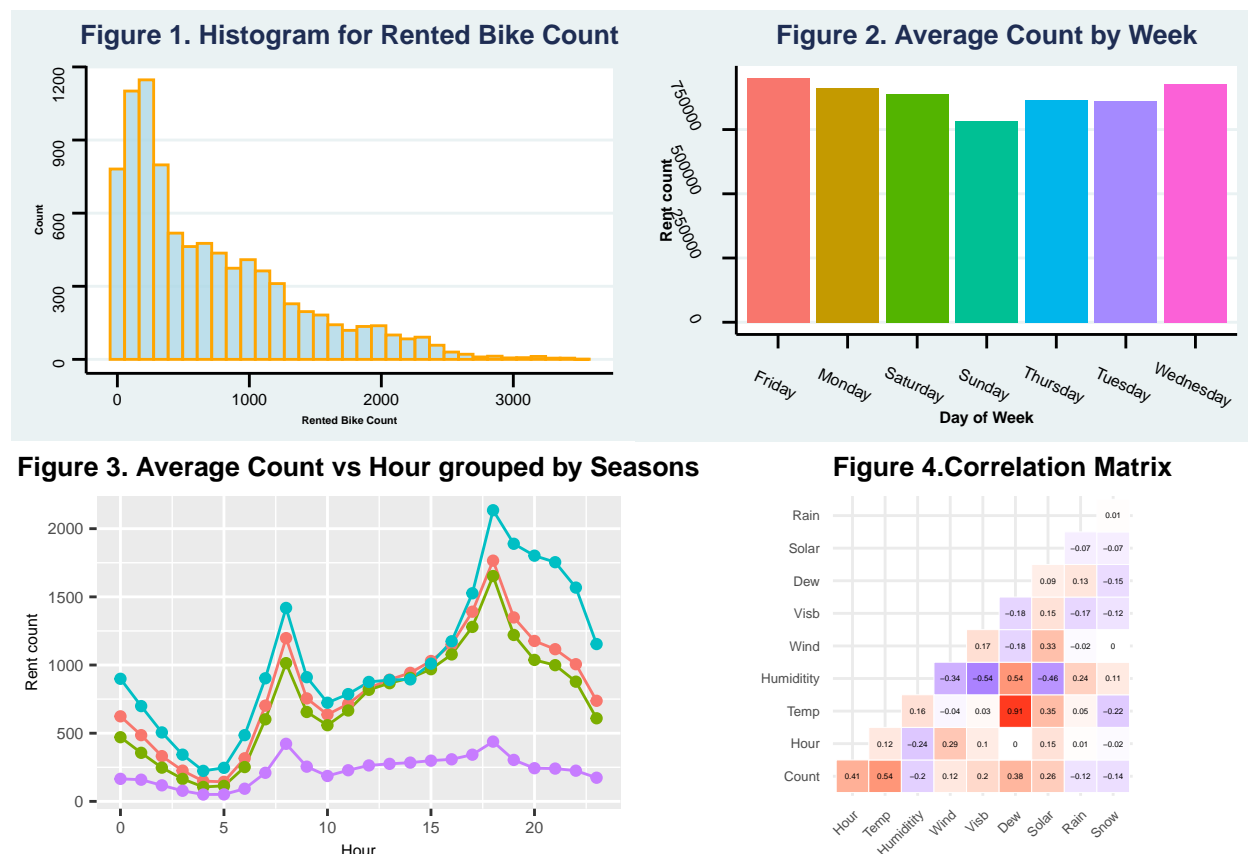
Exploratory data analysis

The data set included in the UCI has been processed, so there are no missing data. We extracted day, month, and year, and converted date to the day of week. The final rental bike data was partitioned into two: a training set for building the regression and a testing set for assessing the model performance. 20% of the 8760 records were randomly selected as the test set and the other 80% as the training set. The dimensions of the training and test sets are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Training and test dataset

Dataset	Number of observations
Training set	7008 and 17 variables
Test set	1752 and 17 variables

Figure 1 shows the total number of rented bikes for the entire period. It illustrates that the rental bike count is highly variable at each hour. As can be seen, there is a long tail in the data distribution. Figure 2 displays an average number of bike rentals by week days. It is shown that the count distribution follows identical trends over the weekdays and different patterns over the weekends. Figure 3 shows that the average count is high at each hour in the summer and low in the winter. The count is quite similar during autumn and spring. The count abruptly increases in hours 8 and 18. This is because the hours from 8 AM and 6 PM are the peak hours, during which the usage of the rental bike is high in Seoul.



As shown in Figure 4, the corplot function creates a graph of a correlation matrix, coloring the regions according to the value correlation coefficients. A correlation value of 1 is considered as a total positive correlation, -1 is considered the total negative correlation, and if 0 no correlation exists between the variables. Positive correlations are notable between count and hour, temp, wind, visb, dew and solar. There is a negative

correlation between count and humidity, rain and snow. These correlation values imply that the weather variables are related to the rental bike count at each hour.

Model development

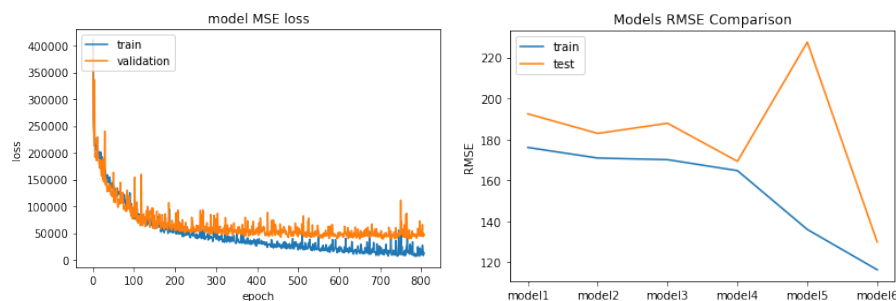
It is essential to tuning parameters in order to find the optimal model with relatively low loss or error values.

For the SVM models, there are two tuning parameters, namely cost and sigma. The first search for cost was within the range 1 to 100 and for sigma was from 0.01 to 0.1 are used. The optimal values are 20 and 0.1. Then we did a more specific grid search around these two values. The optimal values sigma (0.11) and cost (20) were selected as the best combination of parameters.

When building neural networks, we have tried different sizes of the hidden layers. We believe that it is more likely to fit a model with more layers and parameters. Hence we add the hidden layers from 5, the starting model, to 8, the final optimal model. We also try different numbers of nodes ranging from 1 to 512 in different layers. There are more nodes in the first few hidden layers, and the nodes number keeps reducing until the size of output (which is 1 since we only need to make a prediction of the number of rented bike). The activation function we adopted are ReLU and Linear. Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) is an activation function that defines the positive part of its argument. It can be expressed as:

$$f(x) = x^+ = \max(0, x) \quad (3)$$

Linear is an activation function that simply returns the the argument itself. We also add regularizers that apply to a L1 and L2 penalty on the layer's output. L1 penalty is the penalty term in L1 regression or Lasso regression. L2 penalty is the penalty term in L2 regression or Ridge regression. Regularizers are used to avoid model overfitting and improve the robustness and generality. By setting the batch size to 64, we run 110 iterations per epoch with over 800 epochs for the optimal model. A large number of parameters may also bring the problem of overfitting. In the figure below, we can tell that the train and test RMSE have clear trends of decreasing, except for the unusual high test RMSE in model 5. This could be attributed to overfitting. To solve this problem, we constraint the complexity of the model. No more than 8 hidden layers and no more than 512 number of nodes in each layers. Typically, we adopt 256 or 64 nodes per layer. Furthermore, we introduce regularizers that add L1 or L2 penalty to the model during training base on the magnitude of the activation. We also try to randomly drop out a portion (i.e. 20%) of the input in specific layer while training. But later we find thfat the performance of these models is not as good as the one without dropping the input.



Result

We did 10-fold cross-validation in model training, and used the average of 10 outcomes to be the RMSE of each training model. Table 2. shows the RMSE value of the trained regression models both in testing and training sets. As we can see, the NN model has the lowest RMSE in both the train set and test set. The bagging Forest model (BagF) also has an excellent performance among the models of basic machine learning

methods. The models of LM, LASSO and Ridge produce the worst results compared to other models. The multicollinearity of covariates may be the main cause the unsatisfying results.

Table 2. RMSE values of training set and testing set Method | Training | Testing :- | :-: | :-: LM | 407.0000 | 417.0000 Ridge | 427.1653 | 437.7671 LASSO | 427.3688 | 437.4730 RF | 224.6018 | 222.9583 BagF | 184.1149 | 182.7463 SVM | 226.5303 | 221.5075 NN | 120.0056 | 133.2593

Discussion

Ridge and Lasso are used when n is not much larger than p , as there can be a lot of variability in the fit, which can result in either overfitting and very poor predictive ability. Our training set has 7008 observations of 17 variables, which implies we are in the case $n \gg p$. Therefore, we don't have the problem that Ridge and Lasso intended to solve. Furthermore, variable selection (like in Ridge and Lasso) is useful when some predictors are not significant or predictors are highly correlated. In our dataset, most predictors are highly significant, correlation between them is moderate, and VIFs aren't exaggerated. Thus, other circumstances that could make variable selection useful don't hold here. This explains why Lasso and Ridge regression didn't perform well in our project.

Both bagging forest and random forest show that Hour and Functioning_Day are significantly more important than other variables in predicting rental count. Bagging forest results in smaller RMSE than random forest, suggesting that since the number of variables is not excessive, increasing variety during feature selection is not needed for this dataset.

Random seed setting may lead to different results in neural networks. When setting the seed as 625, the difference between validation mse and test mse is large, indicating that the data split is not even. Validation and test mse are getting close when changing the seed as 48107.

Citation

- [1] E, S., Park, J., & Cho, Y. (2020). Using data mining techniques for bike sharing demand prediction in Metropolitan City. Computer Communications, 153, 353–366. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comcom.2020.02.007>
- [2] Izenman, A. J. (2008). Modern multivariate statistical techniques. Regression, classification and manifold learning, 10, 978-0.