9/29/21, 4:17 PM	Machine Learning with the Titanic Dataset by Benedikt Droste Towards Data Science				
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Machine Learning with the Titanic Dataset

An end-to-end guide to predict the Survival of Titanic passenger

Benedikt Droste Apr 10, 2020 · 11 min read *



From my point of view tutorials for beginners should bring the reader in the position to go on

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score at the end but I will also show up some categories where you can easily improve the score. After you have finished reading you can take the model and improve it by yourself. If you are interested in machine learning, the dramatic sinking of the Titanic is a good starting point for your own data science journey. Good luck!

Getting started

def concat_df(train_data, test_data):

df_all = concat_df(train_data, test_data)

dfs = [train_data, test_data]

def divide_df(all_data):

If you are completely new to Kaggle, check out <u>this</u> tutorial for the set up process. You will find the data set and so on <u>here</u>.

After you can loading the files in the Kaggle kernel:

return pd.concat([train_data, test_data], sort=True).reset_index(drop=True)

return all_data.loc[:890], all_data.loc[891:].drop(['Survived'], axis=1)

train_data = pd.read_csv("/kaggle/input/titanic/train.csv")
test_data = pd.read_csv("/kaggle/input/titanic/test.csv")

Which variables are in our dataset:

Get started Open in app		
		0 = No, 1 = Yos
pclass	Ticket class	1 = 1st, 2 = 2nd, 3 = 3rd
sex	Sex	
Age	Age in years	
sibsp	# of siblings / spouses aboard the Titanic	
parch	# of parents / children aboard the Titanic	
ticket	Ticket number	
fare	Passenger fare	
cabin	Cabin number	
embarked	Port of Embarkation	C = Cherbourg, Q = Queenstown, S = Southampton

Kaggle notes:

pclass: A proxy for socio-economic status (SES)

1st = Upper 2nd = Middle 3rd = Lower

sibsp: The dataset defines family relations in this way...

Sibling = brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister

Spouse = husband, wife (mistresses and fiancés were ignored)

parch: The dataset defines family relations in this way...

Parent = mother, father

Child = daughter, son, stepdaughter, stepson

Some children travelled only with a nanny, therefore parch=0 for them.

1. Checks in term of data quality

In a first step we will investigate the titanic data set. Kaggle provides a train and a test data set. The train data set contains all the features (possible predictors) and the target (the variable which outcome we want to predict). The test data set is used for the submission, therefore the target variable is missing. Let 's have a look at the data sets:

2

Get started Open in app										
Train data contains: 891 rows and 12 columns Test data contains: 418 rows and 11 columns										
+ Code + Markdown										
<pre>print("First 3 rows of the train data:") display(train_data.head(3)) print("First 3 rows of the test data:") display(test_data.head(3))</pre>										
First 3 rows of the train data:										
Passengerld Survived Pclass	Name	Sex	Age	SibSp	Parch	Ticket	Fare	Cabin	Embarked	
0 1 0 3	Braund, Mr. Owen Harris	male	22.0	1	0	A/5 21171	7.2500	NaN	S	

1 Cumings, Mrs. John Bradley (Florence Briggs Th... female 38.0

Heikkinen, Miss. Laina female 26.0

How I already wrote in the introduction, the target variable "Survived" is missing in the test data set. All other columns appears in both dataframs. In sum we have 11 different variables which can be used as features to predict the outcome of our target. You can see at first sight that there are missings for "Cabin". Missings can irritate our algorithms, so it is important task to clean up the data in a first step.

1

0

0

PC 17599 71.2833

0 STON/O2. 3101282 7.9250

C85

NaN

С

s



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```
print("Missings in the test data:")
display(test_data.isnull().sum())
```



Missings in the train data:

PassengerId	0
Survivod	Â
Sulvived	0
Pclass	0
Name	0
Sex	0
Age	177
SibSp	0
Parch	0
Ticket	0
Fare	0
Cabin	687
Embarked	2
dtvne int64	1
utype. Into	

Missings in the test data:

PassennerTd	ß
rassenger Iu	
Pclass	0
Name	0
Sex	0
Age	86
SibSp	0
Parch	0
Ticket	0
Fare	1
Cabin	327
Embarked	0
dtvne int64	

In the training data we have missings in the age, cabin and embarked column. In the test data set are missings in the age, fare and cabin column. We will concat both data sets and perform the data cleansing for the entire data set.



20% of our age column is missings. Let 's have a look at the distribution:



Age



Get started) Open in app

We don't want to delete all rows with missing age values, therefore we will replace the missings. As you can see we have a right-skrewed distribution for age and the median should a good choice for substitution.

One thesis was that the median of age differs for the passenger classes. Professional advancement usually comes with increasing age and experience. Therefore, people with a higher socio-economic status are older on average. If we split up by sex we see that there is still a difference because women are younger in general. In a last step I have checked the number of cases to ensure that there are still enough cases in each category. We will use these median values to replace the missings.

```
#replace the missings values with the medians of each group
df_all['Age'] = df_all.groupby(['Pclass','Sex'])['Age'].apply(lambda x: x.fillna(x.median()))
```

2.2 Fare

```
df_all.loc[df_all['Fare'].isnull()]
```

	Age	Cabin	Embarked	Fare	Name	Parch	Passengerld	Pclass	Sex	Sib Sp	Survived	Ticket
1043	60.5	NaN	S	NaN	Storey, Mr. Thomas	0	1044	3	male	0	NaN	3701

We have just one missing fare value in the whole data set. Mr. Thomas was in passenger class 3, travelled alone and embarked in Southhampton. We will take other cases from people in this category and replace the missing Fare with the median of this group.

```
#loc cases which are similiar to Mr. Thomas and use the median of fare to replace the missing for his data set
mr_thomas = df_all.loc[(df_all['Pclass'] == 3) & (df_all['SibSp'] == 0) & (df_all['Embarked'] == 'S')]['Fare'].median()
print(mr_thomas)
df_all.loc[df_all['Fare'].isnull(), 'Fare'] = mr_thomas
```

7.925

2.3 Cabin



There are a lot of missing values but we should use the cabin variable because it can be an important predictor. As you can see in the following picture, the first class had the cabins on deck A, B or C, a mix of it was on D or E and the third class was mainly on f or g. We can identify the deck by the first letter.







df_all[['Deck', 'Survived']].groupby('Deck')['Survived'].mean().plot(kind='bar', figsize=(15,7))
pl.suptitle('Surivval rates for different cabines')

Text(0.5, 0.98, 'Surivval rates for different cabines')





There are significant differences in survival rates because guests on the upper decks were quicker on the lifeboats. We will group up some decks.

id df df df df	x = df_a _all.loc _all['Dec _all['Dec _all['Dec _all['Dec	<pre>l[df_all['Deck'] == 'T'].index idx, 'Deck'] = 'A' k'] = df_all['Deck'].replace(['A', 'B', ' k'] = df_all['Deck'].replace(['D', 'E'], k'] = df_all['Deck'].replace(['F', 'G'], k'].value_counts()</pre>	C'], 'ABC') 'DE') 'FG')
] M AB(DE FG Nar	1014 182 87 26 ne: Deck,	dtype: int64	

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	Age	Cabin	Embarked	Fare	Name	Parch	Passengerld	Pclass	Sex	SibSp	Survived	Ticket	Deck
61	38.0	B28	NaN	80.0	Icard, Miss. Amelie	0	62	1	female	0	1.0	113572	ABC
329	62.0	B28	NaN	80.0	Stone, Mrs. George Nelson (Martha Evelyn)	0	830	1	female	0	1.0	113572	ABC

There are just two missings for embarked. As we already tried for the fare case we can look up similiar cases to replace the missing value. It stands to reason that people who paid a similar amount, also had a class 1 ticket and were on the same deck, embarked from the same location. I also read in the Kaggle forum that you can google individual passengers, so i gave it a try:

Miss Amelie: https://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/titanic-survivor/amelia-icard.html

Mrs. George Nelson: <u>https://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/titanic-survivor/martha-evelyn-stone.html</u>

Regarding to the linked articles both embarked in Southhampton. Data science is about research, too!

df_all.loc[df_all['Embarked'].isnull(), 'Embarked'] = 'S'

2.5 Conclusion

We have filled every missing value in our data set and didn't drop a column yet. We used statistical methods for age and fare, created a new category for cabin and did some research for the missings in embarked. Let's have a double check if everything is fine now.

Get started

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Missings in the data:				
Age	0			
Cabin	1014			
Embarked	0			
Fare	0			
Name	0			
Parch	0			
PassengerId	0			
Pclass	0			
Sex	0			
SibSp	0			
Survived	418			
Ticket	0			
Deck	0			
dtype: int64				

3. Feature engineering

Feature engineering is an art and one of the most exciting things in the broad field of machine learning. I really enjoy to study the Kaggle subforums to explore all the great ideas and creative approaches. The titanic data set offers a lot of possibilities to try out different methods and to improve your prediction score. We will focus on some standards and I will explain every step in detail.

ò

Techniques we will use so far:

- Binning continous variables (e.g. Age)
- Create new features out of existing variables (e.g. Title)
- Label encoding for non numeric features (e.g. Sex)
- One hot encoding for categorial features (e.g. Pclass)

3.1 Binning

df_all.boxplot(column=['Fare'], figsize=(15,7))

<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7f8ff5566d68>

500 -



df_all.boxplot(column=['Age'], figsize=(15,7))

<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7f8ff54db7b8>



As you can see, there are outliers for both age and fare. The range of values is much higher for fare compared to age. We will cut the distribution into pieces so that the outliers do not irritate our algorithm. For fare we will assign the same number of cases to each category and for Age we will build the categories based on the values of the variable. This is also the difference between cut and qcut. With cut, the bins are formed based on the values of the variable, regardless of how many cases fall into a category. With qcut we decompose a distribution so that there are the same number of cases in each category.

Get started Open in app	
+ Code + Markdown	
<pre>print("For age, each category has a different number of cases:") df_all['Age'].value_counts()</pre>	
For age, each category has a different number of cases:	
<pre>(16.0, 32.0] 752 (32.0, 48.0] 304 (-0.08, 16.0] 134 (48.0, 64.0] 106 (64.0, 80.0] 13 Name: Age, dtype: int64</pre>	
<pre>print("For fare, each category has nearly a same number of cases:") df_all['Fare'].value_counts()</pre>	
For fare, each category has nearly a same number of cases:	
<pre>[(-0.001, 7.854] 275 (21.558, 41.579] 265 (41.579, 512.329] 259 (10.5, 21.558] 255 (7.854, 10.5] 255 Name: Fare, dtype: int64</pre>	

On average, younger passengers have a higher chance of survival and so do people with higher ticket prices. Young people were probably rescued first and the people with higher ticket prices had access to the lifeboats first.

df_all[[['Age','Survived']]	.groupby('Age'))['Survived'].mean()
Age (-0.08, (16.0, 3) (32.0, 4) (48.0, 6) (64.0, 8) Name: Su	16.0] 0.550000 2.0] 0.337374 8.0] 0.412037 4.0] 0.434783 0.0] 0.090909 rvived, dtype: flo	at64	



Open in app



	,		 /-	
1	Fare			
	(-0.001, 7.854]	0.217877		
	(7.854, 10.5]	0.201087		
	(10.5, 21.558]	0.426901		
	(21.558, 41.579]	0.443243		
	(41.579, 512.329]	0.645349		

Name: Survived, dtype: float64

```
df_all[['Age', 'Survived']].groupby('Age')['Survived'].mean().plot(kind='bar', figsize=(15,7))
pl.suptitle('Surivval rates for age categories')
```

Text(0.5, 0.98, 'Surivval rates for age categories')



Surivval rates for age categories

df_all[['Fare', 'Survived']].groupby('Fare')['Survived'].mean().plot(kind='bar', figsize=(15,7)) pl.suptitle('Surivval rates for fare categories')

Text(0.5, 0.98, 'Surivval rates for fare categories')

Surivval rates for fare categories



3.2 Create new features out of existing variables

3.2.1 Family Size

There are two interesting variables in our data set which tells us something about family size. SibSp defines how many siblings and spouses a passenger had and parch how many parents and childrens. We can summarize these variables and add 1 (for each passer-by) to get the family size.



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One thesis is that families have a higher chance of survival than singles because they are better able to support themselves and were rescued with priority. However, if the families are too large, coordination is likely to be very difficult in an exceptional situation.







Surivval rates for family size categories

Get started



```
df_all['Ticket_Frequency'] = df_all.groupby('Ticket')['Ticket'].transform('count')
```

We expect a correlation between ticket frequencies and survival rates, because identical ticket numbers are an indicator that people have travelled together.

df_all[['Ticket_Frequency', 'Survived']].groupby('Ticket_Frequency').mean()

1:

	Survived		
Ticket_Frequency			
1	0.270270		
2	0.513812		
3	0.653465		
4	0.727273		
5	0.333333		
6	0.210526		
7	0.208333		
8	0.384615		
11	0.000000		

As expected there are some differences between the survival rates for each ticket frequency.

3.2.3 Title

The name provides us very important information about the socioeconomic status of a passenger. We can answer the question if someone is married or not or if someone has a formal title which could be an indicator for a higher social status.

```
df_all['Title'] = df_all['Name'].str.split(', ', expand=True)[1].str.split('.', expand=True)[0]
df_all['Is_Married'] = 0
df_all['Is_Married'].loc[df_all['Title'] == 'Mrs'] = 1
```



There are quite a lot of different titles in our data set. We only consider title with more than 10 cases, all others we will assign to the category "misc".

```
title_names = (df_all['Title'].value_counts() < 10)
df_all['Title'] = df_all['Title'].apply(lambda x: 'Misc' if title_names.loc[x] == True else x)
df_all.groupby('Title')['Title'].count()</pre>
```

Title					
Master	61				
Misc	34				
Miss	260				
Mr	757				
Mrs	197				
Name: T	itle, dtype: inte	54			

3.2.4 Survival rates

This Kaggle Competetion allows us to use information from the test data set. At this point we would like to point out that for high scores you have to be creative with the data. It is almost like a hackathon. In a Realworld task, you would not normally have the opportunity to do this.

We will identify family names of passengers. Then we can see if there are any family members that are present in both the training and the test data set.

```
import string

def extract_surname(data):
    families = []
    for i in range(len(data)):
        name = data.iloc[i]
        if '(' in name:
            name_no_bracket = name.split('(')[0]
        else:
```



People with a Master's degree and women have survived significantly more often and, on average, have larger families at the same time. We assume that if a master or woman is marked as a survivor in the training data set, family members in the test data set will also have survived.

```
df_all[['Title','Survived','Family_Size']].groupby('Title').mean()
```

	Survived	Family_Size
Title		
Master	0.575000	4.426230
Misc	0.444444	1.441176
Miss	0.697802	2.169231
Mr	0.156673	1.442536
Mrs	0.792000	2.492386

```
print("Survival rates grouped by families of women in dataset:")
df_all.loc[(df_all['Sex'] == 'female') & (df_all['Family_Size'] > 1)].groupby('Family')['Survived'].mean().hist(figsize=(12,5))
```

Survival rates grouped by families of women in dataset:

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In women with a family size of 2 or more, most often all or none of them die.

```
master_families = df_all.loc[df_all['Title'] == 'Master']['Family'].tolist()
df_all.loc[df_all['Family'].isin(master_families)].groupby('Family')['Survived'].mean().hist(figsize=(12,5))
```

```
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7f8ff53af7f0>
```



The same applies for families of passengers with master in their title.



df_all['Survival_quota'] = df_all['Survival_quota'].fillna(0)

3.3 Label- and One Hot Encoding

Most algorithms cannot do anything with strings, so the variables are often recoded before modeling. Label Encoding maps non-numerical values to numbers. For sex, for example, 0 and len(sex)-1, which is, 1.

This leads to another problem. Many algorithms assume that there is a logical sequence within a column. However, this is not always expressed by the numerical ratio. Therefore it is needed to one hot encoding the variables afterwards. The column Sex then becomes two columns Sex_1 and Sex_2, in which it is binary coded whether someone was male or female. So the algorithm can usually process the information better.

```
Get started
               Open in app
    df_all[feature] = LabelEncoder().fit_transform(df_all[feature])
cat_features = ['Pclass', 'Sex', 'Embarked', 'Title', 'Deck', 'Family_Size_bin','Age','Fare']
encoded_features = []
for feature in cat_features:
    encoded_feat = OneHotEncoder().fit_transform(df_all[feature].values.reshape(-1, 1)).toarray()
    n = df_all[feature].nunique()
    cols = ['{}_{}'.format(feature, n) for n in range(1, n + 1)]
    encoded_df = pd.DataFrame(encoded_feat, columns=cols)
    encoded_df.index = df_all.index
    encoded_features.append(encoded_df)
df_all = pd.concat([df_all, *encoded_features], axis=1)
   + Code
                 + Markdown
df_train, df_test = divide_df(df_all)
```

4. Modelling and prediction

For our first prediction we choose a Random Forrest Classifier. RFCs are easy to understand and proven tools for classification tasks.

We still define the columns that we do not need to consider for modelling. For Embarked, for example, we have created dummy columns, so we can drop the original Embarked column. As training/test split we choose 75% and 25%. We train the algorithm with the training data set and then test predictive power with the test data set.

The criteria in brackets for RFC are not mandatory, if you leave them out, default settings are used. The given parameters are already optimized so that our classifier works better than with the default parameters.

```
#setting up a random forest classifier
#standardization of the variables
X = StandardScaler().fit_transform(df_train.drop(columns=drop_cols))
y = df_train['Survived'].values
X_test = StandardScaler().fit_transform(df_test.drop(columns=drop_cols_2))
```

Get started Open in app				
	<pre>max_deptn=/, min_samples_spli min_samples_leaf max_features='au oob_score=True, random_state=42, n_jobs=-1, verbose=1)</pre>	t=6, =6, to',		
<pre>model.fit(X_train, y_train) predictions = model.predict(X_test) print(model.score(X_test1, y_test1)) output = pd.DataFrame({'PassengerId': output['Survived'] = output['Survived output.to_csv('2020_04_09_bd_final_v3</pre>	test_data.PassengerId '].astype(int) .csv', index= False)	, 'Survived': predictions})	
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Using back	end ThreadingBackend ≀	with 4 concurrent workers		
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Done 42 ta [Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Done 192 ta	nsks elapsed: nsks elapsed:	0.1s 0.6s		
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Done 442 ta	sks elapsed:	1.3s		
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Done 792 ta	isks elapsed:	2.3s		
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Done 1242 1	asks elapsed:	3.5s		
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Done 1750 (out of 1750 elapsed	: 5.0s finished		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Using backer	d ThreadingBackend w	ith 4 concurrent workers.		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 42 tag	ks elapsed:	U.US 0 10		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 192 (as	ks elapsed:	0.15 0.2e		
$[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]$. Done 742 tas	sks Lelansed.	0.25 A de		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 1242 ta	isks elapsed:	0.6s		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 1750 or	it of 1750 elapsed:	0.8s finished		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Using backer	d ThreadingBackend w	ith 4 concurrent workers.		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 42 tas	sks elapsed:	0.0s		
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 192 tas	ks elapsed:	0.1s		

Our predicting score is almost 86%, which means that we have correctly predicted our target, i.e. the survival rate, in 86% of cases. This is already a good value, which you can now further optimize. Please find below a viszualization of our random forrest tree.

0.28

0.3s

0.5s

0.7s finished

elapsed:

elapsed:

elapsed:

| elapsed:

[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 442 tasks

[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 792 tasks

0.8654708520179372

[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 1242 tasks

[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done 1750 out of 1750

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5. Conclusion

We made the entire journey in a small data science project. We explored the data, cleaned up the data, then we modified features and created new ones and in a last step we made a prediction with a random forest tree classifier. But there is still a lot to do, next you can test the following things:

- Do other algorithms perform better?
- Can you choose the bins for Age and Fare better?
- Can the ticket variable be used more reasonable?
- Is it possible to further adjust the survival rate?

- Do we really need all features or do we create unnecessary noise that interferes with our algorithm?

Below you find some great resources to start with.

6. Further reading & resources:

Titanic Data Science Solutions

Explore and run machine learning code with Kaggle Notebooks | Using data from Titanic: Machine Learning from Disaster

www.kaggle.com

A Data Science Framework: To Achieve 99% Accuracy	
Explore and run machine learning code with Kaggle Notebooks Using data from Titanic: Machine Learning from Disaster	
www.kaggle.com	

Titanic - Advanced Feature Engineering Tutorial

Explore and run machine learning code with Kaggle Notebooks | Using data from Titanic: Machine Learning from Disaster

www.kaggle.com

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