Data for Development

Lecture 24: CSE 490c
Announcements

• Homework 7, Due December 3
• Programming Assignment 4, Due December 10
• Readings for Wednesday / Friday posted
Topics

• Data Science for Development
• AI for Social Good

• Today
  • Strava Fitness App
  • Predicting Dengue fever based on helpline calls
Strava Fitness App

Fitness app Strava lights up staff at military bases

The movements of soldiers within Bagram air base - the largest US military facility in Afghanistan

Security concerns have been raised after a fitness tracking firm showed the exercise routes of military personnel in bases around the world.
Strava Heatmap

https://www.strava.com/heatmap
Korea
Cuba
Eastern Cuba
Guantanamo Bay
Eastern Iraq
Risalpur, Pakistan
Afghanistan
Kandahar Airport
Strava App

- Business model
  - Social networking for exercise
  - Monthly subscription for various features
- Interesting data source
- Enormous amount of data
- Highly biased towards The West
- Proprietary
Data for Development

• Interesting facts
  • Identification of military bases
  • Earthquake identification for call data records

• Economic Studies
  • Populations and demographic data from call data records
  • Migration

• Policy, government and commercial interventions
Data Sources

• Where are there massive data sets?
• Satellite image data
• Mobile Operators
  • Call Data Records
• Technology monopolies
• Proprietary Applications
Dengue Fever

- Viral disease spread by Aedes mosquitos
- Primarily urban
- Increasing prevalence
- No cure
- Many people recover on their own, some cases require hospitalization
- Vector control to limit infections
- Importance of early detection, localization, monitoring
Challenges in Dengue monitoring

• Only a small percentage of cases reach hospitals
• By the time data is reported from hospitals, outbreak is well established
• Alternate approaches
  • Internet search queries
  • Online media reports
  • Environmental parameters
  • Telephone hotlines
Forecasting dengue fever outbreaks based on telephone hotline

- Contribution: Show that hotline calls can be used for localized prediction of dengue cases when combined with an environmental model
- Calls provide a two week leading indicator
Setting: Punjab, Pakistan

- Dengue epidemic in 2011
  - 21,000 reported patients, at least 350 deaths
- Disease strikes during summer monsoon
- Big push for dengue control and monitoring
- Helpline introduced in 2012
  - Calls for information on dengue symptoms
  - Trained operators record caller information and make referrals if necessary
  - 300,000 calls received in 2012-2013
Health Hotline
Health Hotline as an Early Predictor

Iqbal Town

Gulberg Town

Gives expected number of patient cases 11 days early
Preventive Activities

Real-time System: Automatically geo-tag pictures of an activity that is then uploaded to a centralized system.
Goal: Predict cases at a local level based on call data

• How does calls to hotline predict suspected dengue cases
  • Comparing two measured quantities

• Are other variables needed?
  • Weather information
  • Awareness campaigns for hotline

• Localize across 10 towns of Lahore
Fig. 1. Trends in call volume and suspected dengue cases measured during 2012 and 2013. (A) Time series of calls (red), suspected dengue cases (black), and awareness campaigns (green points). Scale normalized by dividing by individual maximum values. The x-axis label is in week of the year. (B) Density map of calls across towns in Lahore. (C) Density map of cases across towns in Lahore. The lightest shade represents the least number, and the darkest shade represents the highest number. The legend is normalized by the maximum value. Lat, latitude; long, longitude.
## Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S(w,t)</td>
<td>Suspected cases week w, town t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C(w,t)</td>
<td>Calls week w, town t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A(w,t)</td>
<td>Awareness campaigns week w, town t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H(w)</td>
<td>Humidity week w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T(w)</td>
<td>Temperature week w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R(w)</td>
<td>Rainfall week w</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Predict $\log S(w + 2, t)$ as a function of $C(w,t)$, $A(w,t)$, $H(w)$, $T(w)$, $R(w)$
Methodology

• Linear regression
• Random forest learning algorithm
• Estimates achieved good fit based on root mean square error
• Most important term, number of calls
Fig. 2. **Town-wise predictions of log-suspected cases from the ensemble model based on calls and weather data.** Suspected dengue cases (black) and predictions from the model (red).

Fig. 3. **Town-wise predictions of log-suspected cases from the ensemble model based on calls, cases, and weather data.** Suspected dengue cases (black) and predictions from the model (red).
Validation and Deployment

• Validation done through standard methods of generating models for randomly constructed subsets and confirming on held out data

• Validation and cross-correlations as a supplement to the journal article

• Model deployed as part of dengue surveillance system, accessible through a web api