Discovering frequent patterns in time series through unsupervised data mining techniques: the case of the energy profiling in buildings

Marco Savino Piscitelli

marco.piscitelli@polito.it







Building Automation Energy Data Analytics



Energy profiling

The increasing implementation of ICT and EMS in the current *paradigm of smart buildings in smart cities* has enabled an easier availability of a huge amount of heterogeneous and complex building-related data in form of time series.



What is a time series?

A **time series** is a **series** of data points listed in **time** order. Most commonly, a **time series** is a sequence taken at successive equally spaced points in **time**.

Temporal Data Mining

The mining of *time series data* has recently gained high attention as a way to describe and deeply *characterise* typical operational patterns and trends of *energy consumption in buildings*.

Data pre-processing

In a first step, the collected raw data in form of time series are analysed through different statistical methods to identify potential **missing values and punctual outliers** that must be replaced or removed.





In a second step, the original time series is chunked in fixed length windows (sub-sequences). The sub-sequences, representing the daily load profiles, are organized into a MxN matrix where M is the number of daily load profiles while N depends from the data granularity.

The load profiles (M by N) matrix

		1						
date	time	Power [kW]	_					
20/09/2018	00:00	10			00.00	00.00	12.00	10.00
20/09/2018	06:00	20	_		00:00	06:00	12:00	18:00
20/09/2018	12:00	34		20/09/2018	10	20	34	20
20/09/2018	18:00	20		21/09/2018	6	15	67	30
21/09/2018	00:00	6		22/09/2018	9	12	21	9
21/09/2018	06:00	15						
21/09/2018	12:00	67						
21/09/2018	18:00	30	-					
22/09/2018	00:00	9						
22/09/2018	06:00	12						
22/09/2018	12:00	21						
22/09/2018	18:00	9	_	N – dimension (e.g. for hourly	• = depend • time serie	s from the ti s N = 24)	mestep of t	the time se
	KEY	- VALUE		M – dimensior	n = depend	s from the n	umber of d	ays

N - dimension

This phase of the framework is performed at individual building/customer level and it is aimed at **identifying groups of homogenous profiles in the M by N matrix** through a data segmentation phase.

The typical profiles can be then evaluated through statistical measures (e.g. mean, median) calculated in each group of homogenous daily load profiles identified in the data segmentation phase. To this purpose, data segmentation may be performed following:

- **1.** Domain expert based approach.
- 2. Data mining approach by using unsupervised techniques.
- 3. Indirect clustering through data reduction methods.

Cluster analysis

- Clustering allows to segment a set of data objects into clusters based on a concept of similarity/proximity among data.
- The objective of any clustering algorithm consists in **dividing a set of data composed of n multidimensional objects** {x1, . . ., xn} **into K clusters** {C1, . . ., CK}, in order to group similar objects in the same cluster and dissimilar objects into different clusters.
- The set of clusters P = {C1, . . ., CK} is referred as data partition.

Hierarchical clustering

 A set of nested clusters organized as a hierarchical bottom/up (agglomerative) or top/down (divisive) tree



Cluster analysis



Cluster analysis hierarchical algorithms

Average linkage hierarchical clustering: In this type, two clusters whose merger has the smallest average distance between data points are merged in each step. **Complete linkage hierarchical clustering**: In this type, two clusters whose merger has the smallest diameter are merged in each step.

Single linkage hierarchical clustering: In this linkage type, two clusters whose two closest members have the shortest distance are merged in each step.



Cluster analysis – optimal number of clusters

Select the validation metrics



Table 2: Overview of the indices implemented in the NbClust package.

Select the search space (e.g. from 2 to 15 clusters)

the 70% of cluster analyses result in less than 7 clusters



Supervised classification – Decision trees

The **cluster label** is defined **as a categorical dependent variable** which can be predicted with a classification model using additional attributes for the **supervised classification process**.





Classification and regression trees

- The task of classification consists in develop a model capable to assign objects to one of different predefined class, and to predict for a new statistical object its class membership accordingly.
- The objective of a classification model consists in learning a function or a set of rules, which allows to predict for a new unlabeled statistical object its class membership and provide a description of the data features that characterize objects with the same label.

Decision trees

- Starting from the root node, at each node of the tree model, the data are successively splitted.
- At each split the model identify which data feature, and threshold value, better discriminate labels in the corresponding subset of data according to impurity measures.
- Tree models where the output variable takes class label are called classification trees, while Decision trees where the output variable takes continuous values are called regression trees



Data preprocessing

- Replace missing values
- Construction of MxN matrix

Let's code!

Data normalization

• Construction of the distance matrix

Load profile

clustering

- Hierarchical clustering analysis
- Evaluation of cluster centroids

Studio

R

Cluster label classification

- Enrichment of the dataset with predictive variables
- Development of a classification tree

Advanced data visualization