

Package ‘binomialRF’

July 22, 2025

Type Package

Title Binomial Random Forest Feature Selection

Version 0.1.0

URL <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/681973v1.abstract>

Description The 'binomialRF' is a new feature selection technique for decision trees that aims at providing an alternative approach to identify significant feature subsets using binomial distributional assumptions (Rachid Zaim, S., et al. (2019)) <[doi:10.1101/681973](https://doi.org/10.1101/681973)>. Treating each splitting variable selection as a set of exchangeable correlated Bernoulli trials, 'binomialRF' then tests whether a feature is selected more often than by random chance.

License GPL-2

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

biocViews Software, GenePrediction, StatisticalMethod, DecisionTree, DimensionReduction, ExperimentalDesign

Imports randomForest, data.table, stats, rlist

Suggests foreach, knitr, rmarkdown, correlbinom

RoxygenNote 7.0.2

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

Author Samir Rachid Zaim [aut, cre]

Maintainer Samir Rachid Zaim <samirrachidzaim@math.arizona.edu>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2020-03-26 17:00:13 UTC

Contents

.cv_binomialRF	2
binomialRF	3
calculateBinomialP	4
calculateBinomialP_Interaction	5

geneset_binomialRF	6
k_binomialRF	6
pmf_list	8

Index	9
--------------	----------

<i>.cv_binomialRF</i>	<i>random forest feature selection based on binomial exact test</i>
-----------------------	---

Description

`cv_binomialRF` is the cross-validated form of the `binomialRF`, where K-fold crossvalidation is conducted to assess the feature's significance. Using the `cvFolds=K` parameter, will result in a K-fold cross-validation where the data is 'chunked' into K-equally sized groups and then the averaged result is returned.

Usage

```
.cv_binomialRF(X, y, cvFolds = 5, fdr.threshold = 0.05,
               fdr.method = "BY", ntrees = 2000, keep.both = FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>X</code>	design matrix
<code>y</code>	class label
<code>cvFolds</code>	how many times should we perform cross-validation
<code>fdr.threshold</code>	<code>fdr.threshold</code> for determining which set of features are significant
<code>fdr.method</code>	how should we adjust for multiple comparisons (i.e., <code>p.adjust.methods=c("holm", "hochberg", "hommel", "bonferroni", "BH", "BY", "fdr", "none")</code>)
<code>ntrees</code>	how many trees should be used to grow the <code>randomForest</code> ? (Defaults to 5000)
<code>keep.both</code>	should we keep the naive <code>binomialRF</code> as well as the correlated adjustment

Value

a `data.frame` with 4 columns: Feature Name, cross-validated average for Frequency Selected, CV Median (Probability of Selecting it randomly), CV Median(Adjusted P-value based on `fdr.method`), and averaged number of times selected as significant.

References

Zaim, SZ; Kenost, C.; Lussier, YA; Zhang, HH. `binomialRF`: Scalable Feature Selection and Screening for Random Forests to Identify Biomarkers and Their Interactions, bioRxiv, 2019.

Examples

```

set.seed(324)

#####
### Generate simulation data
#####

X = matrix(rnorm(1000), ncol=10)
trueBeta= c(rep(10,5), rep(0,5))
z = 1 + X %*% trueBeta
pr = 1/(1+exp(-z))
y = as.factor(rbinom(100,1,pr))

#####
### Run cross-validation
#####

```

binomialRF

random forest feature selection based on binomial exact test

Description

binomialRF is the R implementation of the feature selection algorithm by (Zaim 2019)

Usage

```

binomialRF(X,y, fdr.threshold = .05, fdr.method = 'BY',
           ntrees = 2000, percent_features = .5,
           keep.both=FALSE, user_cbinom_dist=NULL,
           sampsize=round(nrow(X)*.63))

```

Arguments

X	design matrix
y	class label
fdr.threshold	fdr.threshold for determining which set of features are significant
fdr.method	how should we adjust for multiple comparisons (i.e., p.adjust.methods = c("holm", "hochberg", "hommel", "bonferroni", "BH", "BY", "fdr", "none"))
ntrees	how many trees should be used to grow the randomForest?
percent_features	what percentage of L do we subsample at each tree? Should be a proportion between (0,1)
keep.both	should we keep the naive binomialRF as well as the correlated adjustment
user_cbinom_dist	insert either a pre-specified correlated binomial distribution or calculate one via the R package correlbinom.
sampsize	how many samples should be included in each tree in the randomForest

Value

a data.frame with 4 columns: Feature Name, Frequency Selected, Probability of Selecting it randomly, Adjusted P-value based on `fdr.method`

References

Zaim, SZ; Kenost, C.; Lussier, YA; Zhang, HH. binomialRF: Scalable Feature Selection and Screening for Random Forests to Identify Biomarkers and Their Interactions, bioRxiv, 2019.

Examples

```
set.seed(324)

#####
### Generate simulation data
#####

X = matrix(rnorm(1000), ncol=10)
trueBeta= c(rep(10,5), rep(0,5))
z = 1 + X %*% trueBeta
pr = 1/(1+exp(-z))
y = as.factor(rbinom(100,1,pr))

#####
### Run binomialRF
#####
require(correlbinom)

rho = 0.33
ntrees = 250
cbinom = correlbinom(rho, successprob = calculateBinomialP(10, .5), trials = ntrees,
                    precision = 1024, model = 'kuk')

binom.rf <-binomialRF(X,y, fdr.threshold = .05,fdr.method = 'BY',
                    ntrees = ntrees,percent_features = .5,
                    keep.both=FALSE, user_cbinom_dist=cbinom,
                    sampsize=round(nrow(X)*rho))

print(binom.rf)
```

calculateBinomialP *calculate the probability, p, to conduct a binomial exact test*

Description

calculateBinomialP returns a probability of randomly selecting a feature as the root node in a decision tree. This is a generic function that is called internally in binomialRF but that may also be called directly if needed. The arguments ... should be, L= Total number of features in X, and percent_features= what percent of L is subsampled in the randomForest call.

Usage

```
calculateBinomialP(L, percent_features)
```

Arguments

L the total number of features in X. Should be a positive integer >1
percent_features what percentage of L do we subsample at each tree? Should be a proportion
 between (0,1)

Value

If L is an integer returns a probability value for selecting predictor X_j randomly

Examples

```
calculateBinomialP(110, .4)
calculateBinomialP(13200, .5)
```

```
calculateBinomialP_Interaction
```

calculate the probability, p, to conduct a binomial exact test

Description

calculateBinomialP_Interaction returns a probability of randomly selecting a feature as the root node in a decision tree. This is a generic function that is called internally in binomialRF but that may also be called directly if needed. The arguments ... should be, L= Total number of features in X, and percent_features= what percent of L is subsampled in the randomForest call.

Usage

```
calculateBinomialP_Interaction(L, percent_features, K = 2)
```

Arguments

L the total number of features in X. Should be a positive integer >1
percent_features what percentage of L do we subsample at each tree? Should be a proportion
 between (0,1)
K interaction level

Value

If L is an integer returns a probability value for selecting predictor X_j randomly

Examples

```
calculateBinomialP_Interaction(110, .4, 2 )
```

`geneset_binomialRF` *random forest feature selection based on binomial exact test*

Description

`binomialRF` is the R implementation of the feature selection algorithm by (Zaim 2019)

Usage

```
geneset_binomialRF(binomialRF_object, gene_ontology, cutoff = 0.2)
```

Arguments

`binomialRF_object` the `binomialRF` object output

`gene_ontology` a two- or three-column representation of a gene ontology with gene and geneset names

`cutoff` a real-valued number between 0 and 1, used as a p-value threshold

Value

a data.frame with 4 columns: Geneset Name, P-value, Adjusted P-value based on `fdr.method`

References

Zaim, SZ; Kenost, C.; Lussier, YA; Zhang, HH. `binomialRF`: Scalable Feature Selection and Screening for Random Forests to Identify Biomarkers and Their Interactions, bioRxiv, 2019.

`k_binomialRF` *random forest feature selection based on binomial exact test*

Description

`k_binomialRF` is the R implementation of the interaction feature selection algorithm by (Zaim 2019). `k_binomialRF` extends the `binomialRF` algorithm by searching for k-way interactions.

Usage

```
k_binomialRF(X, y, fdr.threshold = 0.05, fdr.method = "BY",
  ntrees = 2000, percent_features = 0.3, K = 2, cbinom_dist = NULL,
  sampsize = nrow(X) * 0.4)
```

Arguments

X	design matrix
y	class label
fdr.threshold	fdr.threshold for determining which set of features are significant
fdr.method	how should we adjust for multiple comparisons (i.e., p.adjust.methods=c("holm", "hochberg", "hommel", "bonferroni", "BH", "BY", "fdr", "none"))
ntrees	how many trees should be used to grow the randomForest? (Defaults to 5000)
percent_features	what percentage of L do we subsample at each tree? Should be a proportion between (0,1)
K	for multi-way interactions, how deep should the interactions be?
cbinom_dist	user-supplied correlated binomial distribution
sampsize	user-supplied sample size for random forest

Value

a data.frame with 4 columns: Feature Name, Frequency Selected, Probability of Selecting it randomly, Adjusted P-value based on fdr.method

References

Zaim, SZ; Kenost, C.; Lussier, YA; Zhang, HH. binomialRF: Scalable Feature Selection and Screening for Random Forests to Identify Biomarkers and Their Interactions, bioRxiv, 2019.

Examples

```
set.seed(324)

#####
### Generate simulation data
#####

X = matrix(rnorm(1000), ncol=10)
trueBeta= c(rep(10,5), rep(0,5))
z = 1 + X %*% trueBeta
pr = 1/(1+exp(-z))
y = rbinom(100,1,pr)

#####
### Run interaction model
#####

require(correlbinom)

rho = 0.33
ntrees = 250
cbinom = correlbinom(rho, successprob = calculateBinomialP_Interaction(10, .5,2),
                     trials = ntrees, precision = 1024, model = 'kuk')
```

```
k.binom.rf <-k_binomialRF(X,y, fdr.threshold = .05,fdr.method = 'BY',  
                          ntrees = ntrees,percent_features = .5,  
                          cbinom_dist=cbinom,  
                          sampsize=round(nrow(X)*rho))
```

pmf_list

A prebuilt distribution for correlated binary data

Description

This data contains probability mass functions (pmf's) for correlated binary data for various parameters. The sum of correlated exchangeable binary data is a generalization of the binomial distribution that deals with correlated trials. The correlation in decision trees occurs as the subsampling and bootstrapping step in random forests touch the same data, creating a co-dependency. This data contains some pre-calculated distributions for random forests with 500, 1000, and 2000 trees with 10, 100, and 1000 features. For more distributions, they can be calculated via the `correlbinom` R package.

Usage

```
pmf_list
```

Format

A list of lists

References

Witt, Gary. "A Simple Distribution for the Sum of Correlated, Exchangeable Binary Data." *Communications in Statistics-Theory and Methods* 43, no. 20 (2014): 4265-4280.

Index

* datasets

pmf_list, 8
.cv_binomialRF, 2

binomialRF, 3

calculateBinomialP, 4
calculateBinomialP_Interaction, 5

geneset_binomialRF, 6

k_binomialRF, 6

pmf_list, 8