Package 'RCTrep'

January 20, 2025

Type Package

Title Validation of Estimates of Treatment Effects in Observational Data

Version 1.2.0

Author Lingjie Shen [aut, cre, cph], Gijs Geleijnse [aut], Maurits Kaptein [aut]

Maintainer Lingjie Shen <lingjieshen66@gmail.com>

Description Validates estimates of (conditional) average treatment effects obtained using observational data by a) making it easy to obtain and visualize estimates derived using a large variety of methods (G-computation, inverse propensity score weighting, etc.), and b) ensuring that estimates are easily compared to a gold standard (i.e., estimates derived from randomized controlled trials). 'RCTrep' offers a generic protocol for treatment effect validation. 'RC-Trep' provides a simple steps, namely, set-selection, estimation, diagnosis, and validation. 'RC-Trep' provides a simple dashboard to review the obtained results. The validation approach is introduced by Shen, L., Geleijnse, G. and Kaptein, M. (2023) <doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-2559287/v2>.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL https://github.com/duolajiang/RCTrep

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

Imports mvtnorm, MatchIt, ggplot2, ggpubr, PSweight, numDeriv, R6, dplyr, geex, BART, fastDummies, tidyr, copula, shiny, shinydashboard, glue, stats, utils, caret

Suggests rmarkdown, knitr, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

Config/testthat/edition 3

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

VignetteBuilder knitr

Depends R (>= 2.10), base

NeedsCompilation no

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2023-11-02 14:40:02 UTC

Contents

call_dashboard	 2
DGM	 3
Fusion	 4
GenerateSyntheticData	 6
quasar.agg	 7
quasar.obj	 7
quasar.synthetic	 8
RCTREP	 8
SEstimator_wrapper	 11
source.binary.data	 13
source.data	 13
target.binary.data	 14
target.data	 15
TEstimator_wrapper	 15
	18

Index

call_dashboard	Visualizing validation results according to four steps, namely, set-
	selection, estimation, diagnosis, and validation

Description

Visualizing validation results according to four steps, namely, set-selection, estimation, diagnosis, and validation

Usage

```
call_dashboard(source.obj = NULL, target.obj = NULL, source.obj.rep = NULL)
```

Arguments

source.obj	an instantiated object of class TEstimator. The estimates of conditional average treatment effects are compared to those from target.obj.
target.obj	an instantiated object of class TEstimator. The estimates of conditional average treatment effects are regarded as unbiased of truth.
source.obj.rep	an instantiated object of class SEstimator. The estimates of conditional average treatment effects are compared to those from target.obj.

Value

an interactive interface visualizing results of four steps

DGM

Generating RCT data or observational data for the examples used in the package

Description

Generating RCT data or observational data for the examples used in the package

Usage

```
DGM(
  trial,
  n,
  var_name,
  p_success,
  tau,
  y0,
  log.ps = NULL,
  binary = FALSE,
  noise = 1,
  . . .
```

Arguments

)

trial	Logical indicating whether the treatment is randomly assigned in the generated data. If TRUE, RCT data is generated. Otherwise, observational data is generated.
n	A numeric value indicating the number of observations in the generated data
var_name	A character vector indicating the names of variables
p_success	the success probability of binary variables
tau	a character indicating the generation of the true treatment effect of each individ- ual
уØ	a character indicating the generation of the potential outcome under control
log.ps	a numeric value indicating the logit of propensity score
binary	logical indicating whether the outcome is binary or continuous variable
noise	a numeric value indicating the standard error of noise term of continuous outcome
	an optional argument indicating pairwise correlations between variables

Value

a data frame; column names are variables names, z, y

Fusion

Examples

Fusion

Validation of estimates of conditional average treatment effects in objects of class TEstimator and SEstimator.

Description

Validation of estimates of conditional average treatment effects in objects of class TEstimator and SEstimator.

Validation of estimates of conditional average treatment effects in objects of class TEstimator and SEstimator.

Value

an R6 object

Methods

Public methods:

- Fusion\$new()
- Fusion\$plot()
- Fusion\$print()
- Fusion\$evaluate()
- Fusion\$clone()

Method new():

```
Usage:
Fusion$new(..., stratification = NULL, stratification_joint = NULL)
```

4

Fusion

Arguments:

- ... objects of class TEstimator and SEstimator.
- stratification a character vector specifying variables. The variables are used to select subgroups individually or in combination depending on stratification_joint. Default value is NULL.
- stratification_joint a logical indicating if subgroups are selected based on levels of individual variable in stratification or levels of combined variables in stratifiation. Default value is NULL.

Method plot():

Usage:

Fusion\$plot()

Method print():

Usage:
Fusion\$print()

Method evaluate():

Usage:
Fusion\$evaluate()

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

Fusion\$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

Examples

```
source.data <- RCTrep::source.data</pre>
target.data <- RCTrep::target.data</pre>
vars_name <- list(outcome_predictors = c("x1", "x2", "x3", "x4", "x5", "x6"),</pre>
                   treatment_name = c('z'),
                   outcome_name = c('y')
)
selection_predictors <- c("x2","x6")</pre>
source.obj <- TEstimator_wrapper(</pre>
 Estimator = "G_computation",
 data = source.data,
 vars_name = vars_name,
 outcome_method = "glm",
 outcome_form=y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + z + z:x1 + z:x2 + z:x3 + z:x6,
 name = "RWD",
 data.public = FALSE
)
```

```
target.obj <- TEstimator_wrapper(</pre>
Estimator = "Crude",
data = target.data,
vars_name = vars_name,
name = "RCT",
data.public = FALSE,
isTrial = TRUE
)
strata <- c("x1","x4")</pre>
source.rep.obj <- SEstimator_wrapper(Estimator = "Exact",</pre>
                                       target.obj = target.obj,
                                       source.obj = source.obj,
                                       selection_predictors =
                                       selection_predictors)
source.rep.obj$EstimateRep(stratification = strata, stratification_joint = TRUE)
fusion <- Fusion$new(target.obj,</pre>
                      source.obj,
                      source.rep.obj)
fusion$plot()
fusion$evaluate()
```

GenerateSyntheticData Generating the synthetic RCT data given marginal distribution of each covariate

Description

Generating the synthetic RCT data given marginal distribution of each covariate

Usage

```
GenerateSyntheticData(margin_dis, N, margin, var_name, pw.cor = 0)
```

Arguments

margin_dis	a character indicating the distribution of each variable, allowable options are "bernoulli_categorical" and "bernoulli". If some variables have two cat- egories and some have more than two categories, "bernoulli_categorical" should be specified; if all variables have two categories, "bernoulli" should be specified
Ν	a numeric value specifying the sample size for the simulated data
margin	a list containing the marginal distribution of variables; if margin_dis="bernoulli_categorical", then margin should be list(x1=c("x1",nlevels(x1),level1, level2,,leveln, plevel1, plevel2,,plevel3), x2=c("x2",); if margin_dis="bernoulli", margin=list(p(x1=1),p(x2=1),,p(xn=1))

6

quasar.agg

Value

a data frame with columns names x1, x2,....

quasar.agg

Aggregated data derived from paper of QUASAR trial

Description

Aggregated data derived from paper of QUASAR trial

Usage

quasar.agg

Format

An object of class list of length 5.

quasar.obj

An object of class TEstimator_Synthetic using quasar.synthetic

Description

An object of class TEstimator_Synthetic using quasar.synthetic

Usage

quasar.obj

Format

An object of class TEstimator_Synthetic (inherits from TEstimator, R6) of length 15.

RCTREP

quasar.synthetic

Description

A synthetic QUASAR trial dataset, where outcome is a binary variable, treatment is a binary variable.

Usage

quasar.synthetic

Format

'quasar.synthetic' A data frame with 5934 rows and 3 variables:

Stage2 binary variable, 1 indicating stage 2 and 0 indicating stage 3

male binary variable, 1 indicating male and 0 indicating female

age categorical variable, 1 indicating [23,50], 2 indicating [50,59], 3 indicating [60,69], 4 indicating [70,86]

RCTREP

Replicate treatment effect estimates obtained from a randomized control trial using observational data

Description

The function RCTREP is used to validate the estimates of treatment effects obtained from observational data by comparing to estimates from a target randomized control trial. The function currently implements the following types of estimators of treatment effects: G_computation, inverse propensity score weighting (IPW), and augmented propensity score weighting. The function implements the following three types of weighting estimators to compare the resulting estimates of treatment effects from RWD to the target RCT: exact matching weights, inverse selection probability weighting, and sub-classification. Since we regard the sample in the RCT as the target population, weights for each individual in observational data is p/(1-p) so that the weighted population of observational data is representative to the target population.

Usage

```
RCTREP(
   TEstimator = "G_computation",
   SEstimator = "Exact",
   source.data = source.data,
   target.data = target.data,
```

RCTREP

```
source.name = "RWD",
target.name = "RCT",
vars_name,
selection_predictors,
outcome_method = "glm",
treatment_method = "glm",
weighting_method = "glm",
outcome_formula = NULL,
treatment_formula = NULL,
selection_formula = NULL,
stratification = NULL,
stratification_joint = FALSE,
strata_cut_source = NULL,
strata_cut_target = NULL,
two_models = FALSE,
data.public = TRUE,
. . .
```

)

Arguments

TEstimator	A character specifying an estimator for conditional average treatment effects. The allowed estimators for TEstimator are: "G_computation", "IPW", and "DR". The corresponding object will be created by the wrapper function TEstimator_wrapper(). The default is "G_computation", which, along with outcome_method="glm" models the potential outcomes.
SEstimator	A character specifying an estimator for weight. The allowed estimators are: "Exact", "Subclass", "ISW". The default is "Exact", which, implements the exact matching on variables in selection_predictors to balance the population covariates between source.data and target.data.
source.data	A data frame containing variables named in vars_name and possible other vari- ables. source.obj is instantiated using source.data.
target.data	A data frame containing variables named in vars_name and possible other vari- ables. target.obj is instantiated using target.data.
source.name	A character indicating the name of source.obj.
target.name	A character indicating the name of target.obj.
vars_name	A list containing four vectors outcome_predictors, treatment_name, and outcome_name. outcome_predictors is a character vector containing the ad- justment variables, which, along with TEstimator and the corresponding outcome_method or treatment_method to correct for confounding; outcome_name is a character vector of length one containing the variable name of outcome; treatment_name is a character vector of length one containing the variable name of treatment.
selection_predi	ctors
	a character vector specifying variable names. The weights are estimated based

a character vector specifying variable names. The weights are estimated based on the variables.

outcome_method,	treatment_	_method,	weighting_	_method
-----------------	------------	----------	------------	---------

A character specifying model for outcome, treatment, and weight to use. Possible values are found using names(getModelInfo()). See http://topepo.github.io/caret/train-models-by-tag.html.

outcome_formula, treatment_formula, selection_formula

An optional object of class formula describing the outcome model specification, treatment model specification, and selection model specification.

stratification An optional character vector containing variables to select subgroups. source.obj will compute both weighted and unweighted average treatment effects of the subgroups, targe.obj will calculate the average treatment effects of the subgroups.

stratification_joint

An optional logical indicating if the subgroups are selected based on levels of combined variables in stratification or levels of individual variable in stratification.

strata_cut_source

An optional list containing lists. Each component is a list with tag named by a variable in source.data to discretize, containing break which is a vector specifying the interval of range of the variable to divide, lable which is a character vector specifying how to code value in the variable according to which interval they fall. The leftmost interval corresponds to level one, the next leftmost to level two and so on. This parameter is useful in the case we concern the integrated treatment effect conditioning on variables with multiple levels (for instance, continuous variable or ordinal variable with multiple levels). Note that we first model based on these continuous variables, then we discretize these variables according to strata_cut. The variables in data of TEstimator object are discretized, and the weight is calculated based on the discretized variables.

strata_cut_target

An optional list containing lists. Each component is a list with tag named by a variable in target.data to discretize.

- two_models An optional logical indicating whether potential outcomes should be modeled separately when TEstimator="DR". Default is FALSE.
- data.public An optional logical indicating whether the data in the output objects are public. Default is TRUE.

... An optional argument passed to fit() of each estimator object for model training and tuning. See https://topepo.github.io/caret/model-training-and-tuning. html for details.

Details

An R6 object is constructed by a wrapper function TEstimator_wrapper and SEstimator_wrapper with user's input of data and estimators for treatment effect and weight. TEstimator_wrapper() returns initialized objects source.obj and target.obj. SEstimator_wrapper() weights the estimates of source.obj via the class method RCTrep(). The weights are computed using data in the source object source.obj, target object target.obj, and estimator of weights SEstimator.

SEstimator_wrapper

Value

A list of length three with three R6 class objects, source.obj, target.obj and source.rep.obj

Examples

SEstimator_wrapper	Estimating the weighted conditional average treatment effects in
	<pre>source.obj based on input objects source.obj and target.obj of</pre>
	class TEstimator.

Description

Estimating the weighted conditional average treatment effects in source.obj based on input objects source.obj and target.obj of class TEstimator.

Usage

```
SEstimator_wrapper(
   Estimator,
   target.obj,
   source.obj,
   selection_predictors,
   method = "glm",
   sampling_formula = NULL,
   ...
)
```

Arguments

```
Estimator
```

a character specifying an estimator for weight. The allowed estimators are "Exact", "ISW", and "Subclass".

target.obj, sour	ce.obj
	an instantiated object of class TEstimator.
selection_predi	ctors
	a character vector specifying the names of variables in data of source.obj and target.obj. Weights are estimated based on the variables.
method	an optional character specifying a model for estimating sampling probability when Estimator='ISW' or Estimator='Subclass'.
sampling_formul	a
	an object of class formula specifying a model specification for sampling prob- ability. Default value is NULL.
	an optional argument specifying training and tuning for a model of sampling probability. See https://topepo.github.io/caret/model-training-and-tuning.html for details.

Value

An object of class SEstimator

Examples

```
source.data <- RCTrep::source.data</pre>
target.data <- RCTrep::target.data</pre>
vars_name <- list(outcome_predictors = c("x1", "x2", "x3", "x4", "x5", "x6"),</pre>
                   treatment_name = c('z'),
                   outcome_name = c('y')
target.obj <- TEstimator_wrapper(</pre>
 Estimator = "Crude",
 data = target.data,
  vars_name = vars_name,
  name = "RCT",
  data.public = FALSE,
  isTrial = TRUE)
source.obj <- TEstimator_wrapper(</pre>
  Estimator = "G_computation",
  data = source.data,
  vars_name = vars_name,
  outcome_method = "glm",
  outcome_form=y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + z + z:x1 + z:x2 + z:x3 + z:x6,
  name = "RWD",
  data.public = TRUE)
source.rep.obj <- SEstimator_wrapper(Estimator="Exact",</pre>
                                       target.obj=target.obj,
                                       source.obj=source.obj,
                                       selection_predictors=c("x2","x6"))
source.rep.obj$EstimateRep(stratification = c("x1","x3","x4","x5"),
                            stratification_joint = TRUE)
```

source.binary.data A dataset of simulated observational data, where outcome is binary variable. The data is filtered after compared to target.binary.data

Description

A dataset of simulated observational data, where outcome is binary variable. The data is filtered after compared to target.binary.data

Usage

source.binary.data

Format

A data frame with 2624 rows and 9 variables.

- **x1** binary variable, x1 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.2)
- **x2** binary variable, $x^2 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.2)$
- **x3** binary variable, x3 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.8)
- **x4** binary variable, x4 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.8)
- **x5** binary variable, $x5 \sim rbinom(5000,1,0.7)$
- **x6** binary variable, $x6 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.8)$
- **z** binary variable. pp = x1*x2+x3*x4+5*x5+x6, $p(z=1) = p = 1/(1+e^{-(pp-mean(pp))/sd(pp)*sqrt(3)/pi)$, $z \sim rbinom(5000,1,p)$
- y binary variable. pp = x1 + (6*x2+x6+2)*z, $p(y=1) = p = 1/(1+e^{-(pp-mean(pp))/sd(pp)*sqrt(3)/pi)}$, y ~ rbinom(5000,1,p)
- pt a continuous variable within 0 and 1, specifying the probability of p(z=1) given x1,x2,x3,x4,x5,x6

source.data	A data set of simulated observational data, where outcome is continu
	ous variable, treatment is a binary variable.

Description

A data set of simulated observational data, where outcome is continuous variable, treatment is a binary variable.

Usage

source.data

Format

'source.data' A data frame with 5000 rows and 8 variables:

- **x1** binary variable, x1 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.2)
- x2 binary variable, $x2 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.2)$
- **x3** binary variable, $x3 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.8)$
- **x4** binary variable, x4 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.8)
- **x5** binary variable, $x5 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.7)$
- **x6** binary variable, x6 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.8)
- **z** binary variable indicating treatment and control. pp = x1*x2+x3*x4+5*x5+x6, $p(z=1) = p = 1/(1+e^-(pp-mean(pp))/sd(pp)*sqrt(3)/pi)$, $z \sim rbinom(5000,1,p)$
- y continuous variable indicating outcome, $y \sim x1 + 6*x2+x6+2*z + rnorm(5000,0,1)$

target.binary.data A dataset of simulated RCT data, where outcome is binary variable. The data is filtered after compared to source.binary.data

Description

A dataset of simulated RCT data, where outcome is binary variable. The data is filtered after compared to source.binary.data

Usage

target.binary.data

Format

A data frame with 3194 rows and 9 variables.

- **x1** binary variable, $x1 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.7)$
- **x2** binary variable, $x^2 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.9)$
- **x3** binary variable, $x3 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.2)$
- x4 binary variable, x4 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.3)
- **x5** binary variable, $x5 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.2)$
- **x6** binary variable, $x6 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.3)$
- **z** binary variable. pp = x1*x2+x3*x4+5*x5+x6, $p(z=1) = p = 1/(1+exp^{-(pp-mean(pp))/sd(pp)*sqrt(3)/pi)$, $z \sim rbinom(5000,1,p)$
- **y** binary variable. pp = x1 + (6*x2+x6+2)*z, $p(y=1) = p = 1/(1+exp^{-(pp-mean(pp))/sd(pp)*sqrt(3)/pi})$, y ~ rbinom(5000,1,p)
- pt a continuous variable within 0 and 1, specifying the probability of p(z=1) given x1,x2,x3,x4,x5,x6

target.data

A data set of simulated RCT data, where outcome is continuous variable, treatment is a binary variable.

Description

A data set of simulated RCT data, where outcome is continuous variable, treatment is a binary variable.

Usage

target.data

Format

'target.data' A data frame with 5000 rows and 8 variables:

- x1 binary variable, x1 ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.7)
- **x2** binary variable, $x^2 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.9)$
- **x3** binary variable, $x3 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.2)$
- **x4** binary variable, $x4 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.3)$
- **x5** binary variable, $x5 \sim rbinom(5000,1,0.2)$
- **x6** binary variable, $x6 \sim rbinom(5000, 1, 0.3)$
- z binary variable indicating treatment and control, z ~ rbinom(5000,1,0.5)
- y continuous variable indicating outcome, $y \sim x1 + 6*x2+x6+2*z + rnorm(5000,0,1)$

TEstimator_wrapper Estimating conditional average treatment effects

Description

Estimating conditional average treatment effects

Usage

```
TEstimator_wrapper(
  Estimator,
  data,
  vars_name,
  name = "",
  outcome_method = "glm",
  treatment_method = "glm",
  two_models = FALSE,
  outcome_formula = NULL,
```

```
treatment_formula = NULL,
data.public = TRUE,
isTrial = FALSE,
strata_cut = NULL,
...
```

Arguments

Estimator	A character specifying an estimator for conditional average treatment effects. The allowed estimators are: "G_computation", "IPW", and "DR".i The corre- sponding object wll be created by the function TEstimator_wrapper(). The default is "G_computation", which, along with outcome_method="glm" mod- els the potential outcomes.
data	A data frame containing variables named in vars_name and possible other variables.
vars_name	A list containing four character vectors outcome_predictors, treatment_name, and outcome_name. outcome_predictors is a character vector containing the adjustment variables, which, along with TEstimator and the corresponding outcome_method or treatment_method to correct for confounding; outcome_name is a character vector of length one containing the name of outcome; treatment_name is a character vector of length one containing the name of treatment.
name	A character indicating the name of the output object
outcome_method	A character specifying a model for outcome. Possible values are found using names(getModelInfo()). See http://topepo.github.io/caret/train-models-by-tag. html. Default is "glm".
treatment_metho	d
	A character specifying a model for treatment. Possible values are found using names(getModelInfo()). See http://topepo.github.io/caret/train-models-by-tag. html. Default is "glm".
two_models	An optional logical indicating whether potential outcomes should be modeled separately when TEstimator="DR". Default is FALSE.
outcome_formula	
	An optional object of class formula describing the outcome model specification when Estimator="G_computation" or Estimator="DR".
treatment_formu	la
	An optional object of class formula describing the treatment model specifica- tion when Estimator="IPW" or Estimator="DR"
data.public	An optional logical indicating whether individual-level data is public in the output object. Default is TRUE.
isTrial	An optional logical indicating whether the treatment assignment of data is ran- dom or unknown.
strata_cut	An optional list containing lists. Each component is a list with tag named by a variable in data to discretize, containing break which is a vector specifying the interval of range of the variable to divide, lable which is a character

16

vector specifying how to code value in the variable according to which interval they fall. The leftmost interval corresponds to level one, the next leftmost to level two and so on. This parameter is useful in the case we concern the integrated treatment effect conditioning on variables with multiple levels (for instance, continuous variable or ordinal variable with multiple levels). Note that we first model based on these continuous variables, then we discretize these variables according to strata_cut. The variables in data of the output object are discretized.

... An optional argument passed to the private function fit() of each class for model training and tuning. See https://topepo.github.io/caret/model-training-and-tuning. html for details.

Value

An object of class TEstimator.

Examples

Index

```
* datasets
    quasar.agg, 7
    quasar.obj,7
    quasar.synthetic, 8
    source.binary.data, 13
    source.data, 13
    target.binary.data, 14
    target.data,15
call_dashboard, {\color{black} 2}
DGM, 3
Fusion, 4
{\tt GenerateSyntheticData, 6}
quasar.agg,7
quasar.obj,7
quasar.synthetic,8
RCTREP, 8
SEstimator_wrapper, 10, 11
source.binary.data, 13
source.data, 13
target.binary.data,14
target.data, 15
TEstimator_wrapper, 10, 15
```