

Package ‘quantregForest’

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Type Package

Title Quantile Regression Forests

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Depends randomForest, RColorBrewer

Imports stats, parallel

Suggests gss

Description Quantile Regression Forests is a tree-based ensemble method for estimation of conditional quantiles. It is particularly well suited for high-dimensional data. Predictor variables of mixed classes can be handled. The package is dependent on the package 'randomForest', written by Andy Liaw.

License GPL

NeedsCompilation yes

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predict.quantregForest

Prediction method for class quantregForest

Description

Prediction of test data with quantile regression forests.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'quantregForest'
predict(object, newdata = NULL,
        what = c(0.1, 0.5, 0.9), ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class quantregForest
newdata	A data frame or matrix containing new data. If left at default NULL, the out-of-bag predictions (OOB) are returned, for which the option keep.inbag has to be set to TRUE at the time of fitting the object.
what	Can be a vector of quantiles or a function. Default for what is a vector of quantiles (with numerical values in [0,1]) for which the conditional quantile estimates should be returned. If a function it has to take as argument a numeric vector and return either a summary statistic (such as mean, median or sd to get conditional mean, median or standard deviation) or a vector of values (such as with quantiles or via sample) or a function (for example with ecdf).
...	Additional arguments (currently not in use).

Value

A vector, matrix or list.

If what is a vector with desired quantiles (the default is what=c(0.1, 0.5, 0.9)), a matrix with one column per requested quantile returned.

If just a single quantile is specified (for example via what=0.5), a vector is returned.

If what is a function with numerical return value (for example via what=function(x) sample(x, 10, replace=TRUE) to sample 10 new observations from conditional distribution), the output is also a matrix (or vector if just a scalar is returned).

If what has a function as output (such as what=ecdf), a list will be returned with one element per new sample point (and the element contains the desired function).

Author(s)

Nicolai Meinshausen, Christina Heinze

See Also

[quantregForest](#), [predict.quantregForest](#)

Examples

```
#####  
## Load air-quality data (and preprocessing) ##  
#####  
  
data(airquality)  
set.seed(1)  
  
## remove observations with missing values  
airquality <- airquality[ !apply(is.na(airquality), 1,any), ]  
  
## number of remaining samples  
n <- nrow(airquality)  
  
## divide into training and test data  
indextrain <- sample(1:n,round(0.6*n),replace=FALSE)  
Xtrain <- airquality[ indextrain,2:6]  
Xtest <- airquality[-indextrain,2:6]  
Ytrain <- airquality[ indextrain,1]  
Ytest <- airquality[-indextrain,1]  
  
#####  
## compute Quantile Regression Forests ##  
#####  
  
qrf <- quantregForest(x=Xtrain, y=Ytrain)  
qrf <- quantregForest(x=Xtrain, y=Ytrain, nodesize=10,sampsize=30)  
  
## predict 0.1, 0.5 and 0.9 quantiles for test data  
conditionalQuantiles <- predict(qrf, Xtest)  
print(conditionalQuantiles[1:4,])  
  
## predict 0.1, 0.2,..., 0.9 quantiles for test data  
conditionalQuantiles <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=0.1*(1:9))  
print(conditionalQuantiles[1:4,])  
  
## estimate conditional standard deviation  
conditionalSd <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=sd)  
print(conditionalSd[1:4])
```

```

## estimate conditional mean (as in original RF)
conditionalMean <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=mean)
print(conditionalMean[1:4])

## sample 10 new observations from conditional distribution at each new sample
newSamples <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what = function(x) sample(x,10,replace=TRUE))
print(newSamples[1:4,])

## get ecdf-function for each new test data point
## (output will be a list with one element per sample)
condEcdf <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=ecdf)
condEcdf[[10]](30) ## get the conditional distribution at value 30 for i=10
## or, directly, for all samples at value 30 (returns a vector)
condEcdf30 <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=function(x) ecdf(x)(30))
print(condEcdf30[1:4])

## to use other functions of the package randomForest, convert class back
class(qrf) <- "randomForest"
importance(qrf) ## importance measure from the standard RF

```

quantregForest

Quantile Regression Forests

Description

Quantile Regression Forests infer conditional quantile functions from data

Usage

```
quantregForest(x,y, nthreads=1, keep.inbag=FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	A matrix or data.frame containing the predictor variables.
y	The response variable.
nthreads	The number of threads to use (for parallel computation).
keep.inbag	Keep information which observations are in and out-of-bag? For out-of-bag predictions, this argument needs to be set to TRUE.
...	Other arguments passed to randomForest such as nodesize or mtry etc.

Details

The object can be converted back into a standard `randomForest` object and all the functions of the `randomForest` package can then be used (see example below).

The response `y` should in general be numeric. However, some use cases exist if `y` is a factor (such as sampling from conditional distribution when using for example `what=function(x) sample(x, 10)`). Trying to generate quantiles will generate an error if `y` is a factor, though.

Parallel computation is invoked by setting the value of `nthreads` to values larger than 1 (for example to the number of available CPUs). The argument only has an effect under Linux and Mac OSX and is without effect on Windows due to restrictions on forking.

Value

A value of class `quantregForest`, for which `print` and `predict` methods are available. Class `quantregForest` is a list of the following components additional to the ones given by class `randomForest`:

```
call          the original call to quantregForest
valuesNodes   a matrix that contains per tree and node one subsampled observation
```

Author(s)

Nicolai Meinshausen, Christina Heinze

References

N. Meinshausen (2006) "Quantile Regression Forests", *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 7, 983-999 <http://jmlr.csail.mit.edu/papers/v7/>

See Also

[predict.quantregForest](#)

Examples

```
#####
## Load air-quality data (and preprocessing) ##
#####

data(airquality)
set.seed(1)

## remove observations with missing values
airquality <- airquality[!apply(is.na(airquality), 1, any), ]

## number of remaining samples
n <- nrow(airquality)

## divide into training and test data
```

```

indextrain <- sample(1:n,round(0.6*n),replace=FALSE)
Xtrain      <- airquality[ indextrain,2:6]
Xtest       <- airquality[-indextrain,2:6]
Ytrain      <- airquality[ indextrain,1]
Ytest       <- airquality[-indextrain,1]

#####
##      compute Quantile Regression Forests      ##
#####

qrf <- quantregForest(x=Xtrain, y=Ytrain)
qrf <- quantregForest(x=Xtrain, y=Ytrain, nodesize=10,sampsize=30)

## for parallel computation use the nthread option
## qrf <- quantregForest(x=Xtrain, y=Ytrain, nthread=8)

## predict 0.1, 0.5 and 0.9 quantiles for test data
conditionalQuantiles <- predict(qrf, Xtest)
print(conditionalQuantiles[1:4,])

## predict 0.1, 0.2,..., 0.9 quantiles for test data
conditionalQuantiles <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=0.1*(1:9))
print(conditionalQuantiles[1:4,])

## estimate conditional standard deviation
conditionalSd <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=sd)
print(conditionalSd[1:4])

## estimate conditional mean (as in original RF)
conditionalMean <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=mean)
print(conditionalMean[1:4])

## sample 10 new observations from conditional distribution at each new sample
newSamples <- predict(qrf, Xtest,what = function(x) sample(x,10,replace=TRUE))
print(newSamples[1:4,])

## get ecdf-function for each new test data point
## (output will be a list with one element per sample)
condEcdf <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=ecdf)
condEcdf[[10]](30) ## get the conditional distribution at value 30 for i=10
## or, directly, for all samples at value 30 (returns a vector)
condEcdf30 <- predict(qrf, Xtest, what=function(x) ecdf(x)(30))
print(condEcdf30[1:4])

## to use other functions of the package randomForest, convert class back
class(qrf) <- "randomForest"
importance(qrf) ## importance measure from the standard RF

#####

```

```
## out-of-bag predictions and sampling
#####

## for with option keep.inbag=TRUE
qrf <- quantregForest(x=Xtrain, y=Ytrain, keep.inbag=TRUE)

## or use parallel version
## qrf <- quantregForest(x=Xtrain, y=Ytrain, nthread=8)

## get quantiles
oobQuantiles <- predict( qrf, what= c(0.2,0.5,0.8))

## sample from oob-distribution
oobSample <- predict( qrf, what= function(x) sample(x,1))
```

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