Package ‘fairadapt’

October 9, 2023

Title Fair Data Adaptation with Quantile Preservation

Description An implementation of the fair data adaptation with quantile preservation described in Plecko & Meinshausen (2019) <arXiv:1911.06685>. The adaptation procedure uses the specified causal graph to pre-process the given training and testing data in such a way to remove the bias caused by the protected attribute. The procedure uses tree ensembles for quantile regression.

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BugReports https://github.com/dplecko/fairadapt/issues

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adaptedData

Convenience function for returning adapted data

Description

Convenience function for returning adapted data

Usage

adaptedData(x, train = TRUE)

## S3 method for class 'fairadapt'
adaptedData(x, train = TRUE)

## S3 method for class 'fairadaptBoot'
adaptedData(x, train = TRUE)

Arguments

x Object of class fairadapt or fairadaptBoot, a result of an adaptation procedure.

train A logical indicating whether train data should be returned. Defaults to TRUE. If FALSE, test data is returned.

Value

Either a data.frame when called on a fairadapt object, or a list of data.frames with the adapted data of length n.boot, when called on a fairadaptBoot object.
**COMPAS dataset.**

**Description**

A real dataset from Broward County, Florida. Contains information on individuals released on parole, and whether they reoffended within two years.

**Usage**

```r
compas
```

**Format**

A data frame with 1,000 rows and 9 variables:

- **sex**: sex of the individual
- **age**: age, measured in years
- **race**: race, binary with values Non-White and White
- **juv_fel_count**: count of juvenile felonies
- **juv_misd_count**: count of juvenile misdemeanors
- **juv_other_count**: count of other juvenile offenses
- **priors_count**: count of prior offenses
- **c_charge_degree**: degree of charge, with two values, F (felony) and M (misdemeanor)
- **two_year_recid**: a logical TRUE/FALSE indicator of recidivism within two years after parole start

**computeQuants**

*Compute Quantiles generic for the Quantile Learning step.*

**Description**

Compute Quantiles generic for the Quantile Learning step.

**Usage**

```r
computeQuants(x, data, newdata, ind, ...)
```
Arguments

- **x**: Object with an associated `computeQuants()` method, to be used for inferring quantiles.
- **data**: data.frame containing samples used in the quantile regression.
- **newdata**: data.frame containing counterfactual values for which the quantiles need to be inferred.
- **ind**: A logical vector of length `nrow(data)`, indicating which samples have the baseline value of the protected attribute.
- **...**: Additional arguments to be passed down to respective method functions.

Value

A vector of counterfactual values corresponding to `newdata`.

---

**fairadapt**

**Fairadapt**

Description

Implementation of fair data adaptation with quantile preservation (Plecko & Meinshausen 2019). Uses only plain R.

Usage

```r
fairadapt(
  formula,
  prot.attr,
  adj.mat,
  train.data,
  test.data = NULL,
  cfd.mat = NULL,
  top.ord = NULL,
  res.vars = NULL,
  quant.method = rangerQuants,
  visualize.graph = FALSE,
  eval.qfit = NULL,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

- **formula**: Object of class formula describing the response and the covariates.
- **prot.attr**: A value of class character describing the binary protected attribute. Must be one of the entries of `colnames(adj.mat)`.
**fairadapt**

adj.mat  
Matrix of class matrix encoding the relationships in the causal graph. $M[i,j] = 1$ implies the existence of an edge from node $i$ to node $j$. Must include all the variables appearing in the formula object. When the adj.mat argument is set to NULL, then the top.ord argument has to be supplied.

train.data, test.data  
Training data & testing data, both of class data.frame. Test data is by default NULL.

cfd.mat  
Symmetric matrix of class matrix encoding the bidirected edges in the causal graph. $M[i,j] = M[j,i] = 1$ implies the existence of a bidirected edge between nodes $i$ and $j$. Must include all the variables appearing in the formula object.

top.ord  
A vector of class character describing the topological ordering of the causal graph. Default value is NULL, but this argument must be supplied if adj.mat is not specified. Also must include all the variables appearing in the formula object.

res.vars  
A vector of class character listing all the resolving variables, which should not be changed by the adaptation procedure. Default value is NULL, corresponding to no resolving variables. Resolving variables should be a subset of the descendants of the protected attribute.

quant.method  
A function choosing the method used for quantile regression. Default value is rangerQuants (using random forest quantile regression). Other implemented options are linearQuants and mcqrnnQuants. A custom function can be supplied by the user here, and the associated method for the S3 generic computeQuants needs to be added.

visualize.graph  
A logical indicating whether the causal graph should be plotted upon calling the fairadapt() function. Default value is FALSE.

eval.qfit  
Argument indicating whether the quality of the quantile regression fit should be computed using cross-validation. Default value is NULL, but whenever a positive integer value is specified, then it is interpreted as the number of folds used in the cross-validation procedure.

...  
Additional arguments forwarded to the function passed as quant.method.

**Details**

The procedure takes the training and testing data as an input, together with the causal graph given by an adjacency matrix and the list of resolving variables, which should be kept fixed during the adaptation procedure. The procedure then calculates a fair representation of the data, after which any classification method can be used. There are, however, several valid training options yielding fair predictions, and the best of them can be chosen with cross-validation. For more details we refer the user to the original paper. Most of the running time is due to the quantile regression step using the ranger package.

**Value**

An object of class fairadapt, containing the original and adapted training and testing data, together with the causal graph and some additional meta-information.
References
Plecko, D. & Meinshausen, N. (2019). Fair Data Adaptation with Quantile Preservation

Examples

```r
n_samp <- 200
uni_dim <- c(  "gender", "edu", "test", "score")
uni_adj <- matrix(c( 0, 1, 1, 0,
                     0, 0, 1, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 0),
                   ncol = length(uni_dim),
                   dimnames = rep(list(uni_dim), 2),
                   byrow = TRUE)

uni_ada <- fairadapt(score ~ .,
                    train.data = head(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
                    test.data = tail(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
                    adj.mat = uni_adj,
                    prot.attr = "gender")

uni_ada
```

---

**fairadaptBoot**

*Fairadapt Bootstrap wrapper*

**Description**

The `fairadapt()` function performs data adaptation, but does so only once. Sometimes, it might be desirable to repeat this process, in order to be able to make uncertainty estimates about the data adaptation that is performed. The wrapper function `fairadaptBoot()` enables the user to do so, by performing the `fairadapt()` procedure multiple times, and keeping in memory the important multiple data transformations. For a worked example of how to use `fairadaptBoot()` for uncertainty quantification, see the `fairadapt` vignette.

**Usage**

```r
fairadaptBoot(
  formula,
  prot.attr,
  adj.mat,
  train.data,
  test.data = NULL,
  cfd.mat = NULL,
  top.ord = NULL,
  res.vars = NULL,
```

---
quant.method = rangerQuants,
keep.object = FALSE,
n.boot = 100,
rand.mode = c("finsamp", "quant", "both"),
test.seed = 2022,
...
)

Arguments

formula
Object of class formula describing the response and the covariates.

prot.attr
A value of class character describing the binary protected attribute. Must be one of the entries of colnames(adj.mat).

adj.mat
Matrix of class matrix encoding the relationships in the causal graph. \( M[i,j] = 1 \) implies the existence of an edge from node i to node j. Must include all the variables appearing in the formula object. When the adj.mat argument is set to NULL, then the top.ord argument has to be supplied.

train.data, test.data
Training data & testing data, both of class data.frame. Test data is by default NULL.

cfd.mat
Symmetric matrix of class matrix encoding the bidirected edges in the causal graph. \( M[i,j] = M[j,i] = 1 \) implies the existence of a bidirected edge between nodes i and j. Must include all the variables appearing in the formula object.

top.ord
A vector of class character describing the topological ordering of the causal graph. Default value is NULL, but this argument must be supplied if adj.mat is not specified. Also must include all the variables appearing in the formula object.

res.vars
A vector of class character listing all the resolving variables, which should not be changed by the adaption procedure. Default value is NULL, corresponding to no resolving variables. Resolving variables should be a subset of the descendents of the protected attribute.

quant.method
A function choosing the method used for quantile regression. Default value is rangerQuants (using random forest quantile regression). Other implemented options are linearQuants and mcqrnnQuants. A custom function can be supplied by the user here, and the associated method for the S3 generic computeQuants needs to be added.

keep.object
a logical scalar, indicating whether all the fairadapt S3 objects built in bootstrap repetitions should be saved.

n.boot
An integer corresponding to the number of bootstrap iterations.

rand.mode
A string, taking values "finsamp", "quant" or "both", corresponding to considering finite sample uncertainty, quantile uncertainty, or both.

test.seed
a seed for the randomness in breaking quantiles for the discrete variables. This argument is only relevant when rand.mode equals "quant" or "both" (otherwise ignored).

... Additional arguments forwarded to the function passed as quant.method.
Value

An object of class `fairadaptBoot`, containing the original and adapted training and testing data, together with the causal graph and some additional meta-information.

References

Plecko, D. & Meinshausen, N. (2019). Fair Data Adaptation with Quantile Preservation

Examples

```r
n_samp <- 200
uni_dim <- c("gender", "edu", "test", "score")
uni_adj <- matrix(c(0, 1, 1, 0,
                     0, 0, 1, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 0),
                     ncol = length(uni_dim),
                     dimnames = rep(list(uni_dim), 2),
                     byrow = TRUE)

uni_ada <- fairadaptBoot(score ~ .,
                         train.data = head(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
                         test.data = tail(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
                         adj.mat = uni_adj,
                         prot.attr = "gender",
                         n.boot = 5)

uni_ada
```

`fairTwins`  
*Fair Twin Inspection convenience function.*

Description

Fair Twin Inspection convenience function.

Usage

```r
fairTwins(x, train.id = seq_len(nrow(x$train)), test.id = NULL, cols = NULL)
```

Arguments

- `x` Object of class `fairadapt`, a result of an adaptation procedure.
- `train.id` A vector of indices specifying which rows of the training data should be displayed.
- `test.id` A vector of indices specifying which rows of the test data should be displayed.
- `cols` A character vector, subset of `names(train.data)`, which specifies which subset of columns is to be displayed in the result.
**Value**

A data.frame, containing the original and adapted values of the requested individuals. Adapted columns have _adapted appended to their original name.

**Examples**

```r
n_samp <- 200
uni_dim <- c("gender", "edu", "test", "score")
uni_adj <- matrix(c( 0, 1, 1, 0,
                     0, 0, 1, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 0),
                   ncol = length(uni_dim),
                   dimnames = rep(list(uni_dim), 2),
                   byrow = TRUE)

uni_ada <- fairadapt(score ~ .,
                      train.data = head(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
                      test.data = tail(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
                      adj.mat = uni_adj,
                      prot.attr = "gender"
)

fairTwins(uni_ada, train.id = 1:5)
```

---

**Description**

The dataset contains various demographic, education and work information of the employees of the US government. The data is taken from the 2018 US Census data.

**Usage**

gov_census

**Format**

A data frame with 204,309 rows and 17 variables:

- **sex** gender of the employee
- **age** employee age in years
- **race** race of the employee
- **hispanic_origin** indicator of hispanic origin
- **citizenship** citizenship of the employee
- **nativity** indicator of nativity to the US
marital  marital status
family_size  size of the employee’s family
children  number of children of the employee
education_level  education level measured in years
english_level
salary  yearly salary in US dollars
hours_worked  hours worked every week
weeks_worked  weeks worked in the given year
occupation  occupation classification
industry  industry classification
economic_region  economic region where the person is employed in the US

Source
https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata/documentation.html

graphModel

Obtaining the graphical causal model (GCM)

Description
Obtaining the graphical causal model (GCM)

Usage
graphModel(adj.mat, cfd.mat = NULL, res.vars = NULL)

Arguments
adj.mat  Matrix of class matrix encoding the relationships in the causal graph. M[i,j] == 1L implies the existence of an edge from node i to node j.
cfd.mat  Symmetric matrix of class matrix encoding the bidirected edges in the causal graph. M[i,j] == M[j,i] == 1L implies the existence of a bidirected edge between nodes i and j.
res.vars  A vector of class character listing all the resolving variables, which should not be changed by the adaption procedure. Default value is NULL, corresponding to no resolving variables. Resolving variables should be a subset of colnames(adj.mat). Resolving variables are marked with a different color in the output.

Value
An object of class igraph, containing the causal graphical, with directed and bidirected edges.
Examples

```r
adj.mat <- cfd.mat <- array(0L, dim = c(3, 3))
colnames(adj.mat) <- rownames(adj.mat) <- 
colnames(cfd.mat) <- rownames(cfd.mat) <- c("A", "X", "Y")

adj.mat["A", "X"] <- adj.mat["X", "Y"] <- 
cfd.mat["X", "Y"] <- cfd.mat["Y", "X"] <- 1L
gcm <- graphModel(adj.mat, cfd.mat, res.vars = "X")
```

**predict.fairadapt**  
*Prediction function for new data from a saved fairadapt object.*

**Description**  
Prediction function for new data from a saved fairadapt object.

**Usage**

```r
## S3 method for class 'fairadapt'
predict(object, newdata, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `object`: Object of class fairadapt, a result of an adaptation procedure.
- `newdata`: A data.frame containing the new data.
- `...`: Additional arguments forwarded to computeQuants().

**Details**

The `newdata` argument should be compatible with `adapt.test` argument that was used when constructing the fairadapt object. In particular, `newdata` should contain column names that appear in the formula argument that was used when calling `fairadapt()` (apart from the outcome variable on the LHS of the formula).

**Value**

A data.frame containing the adapted version of the new data.

**Examples**

```r
n_samp <- 200
uni_dim <- c(  "gender", "edu", "test", "score"
)
uni_adj <- matrix(c(  0, 1, 1, 0,
                     0, 0, 1, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 0),
```
predict.fairadaptBoot

Description

Prediction function for new data from a saved fairadaptBoot object.

Usage

## S3 method for class 'fairadaptBoot'
predict(object, newdata, ...)

Arguments

object Object of class fairadapt, a result of an adaptation procedure.
newdata A data.frame containing the new data.
... Additional arguments forwarded to computeQuants().

Details

The newdata argument should be compatible with adapt.test argument that was used when constructing the fairadaptBoot object. In particular, newdata should contain column names that appear in the formula argument that was used when calling fairadaptBoot() (apart from the outcome variable on the LHS of the formula).

Value

A data.frame containing the adapted version of the new data.

Examples

n_samp <- 200
uni_dim <- c("gender", "edu", "test", "score")
uni_adj <- matrix(c(0, 1, 1, 0,
                     0, 0, 1, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 1,
                     0, 0, 0, 1),
                   nrow = length(uni_dim))

dimnames = rep(list(uni_dim), 2),
byrow = TRUE)

uni_ada <- fairadapt(score ~ .,
          train.data = head(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
          adj.mat = uni_adj,
          prot.attr = "gender"
)
predict(object = uni_ada, newdata = tail(uni_admission, n = n_samp))
quantFit

0, 0, 0, 0),
ncol = length(uni_dim),
dimnames = rep(list(uni_dim), 2),
byrow = TRUE)

uni_ada_boot <- fairadaptBoot(score ~ .,
  train.data = head(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
  adj.mat = uni_adj,
  prot.attr = "gender",
  n.boot = 5,
  keep.object = TRUE)

predict(object = uni_ada_boot, newdata = tail(uni_admission, n = n_samp))

quantFit

Quality of quantile fit statistics.

Description

Quality of quantile fit statistics.

Usage

quantFit(x, ...)

Arguments

x Object of class fairadapt, a result of an adaptation procedure.
...

Ignored in this case.

Value

A numeric vector, containing the average empirical loss for the 25%, 50% and 75% quantile loss functions, for each variable.

Examples

n_samp <- 200
uni_dim <- c("gender", "edu", "test", "score")
uni_adj <- matrix(c(0, 1, 1, 0,
0, 0, 1, 1,
0, 0, 0, 1,
0, 0, 0, 0),
ncol = length(uni_dim),
dimnames = rep(list(uni_dim), 2),
byrow = TRUE)

uni_ada <- fairadapt(score ~ .,)
train.data = head(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
 test.data = tail(uni_admission, n = n_samp),
 adj.mat = uni_adj,
 prot.attr = "gender",
 eval.qfit = 3L
}

quantFit(uni_ada)

---

**rangerQuants**

*Quantile Engine Constructor for the Quantile Learning step.*

**Description**

There are several methods that can be used for the quantile learning step in the fairadapt package. Each of the methods needs a specific constructor. The constructor is a function that takes the data (with some additional meta-information) and returns an object on which the computeQuants() generic can be called.

**Usage**

rangerQuants(data, A.root, ind, min.node.size = 20, ...)

linearQuants(
  data,
  A.root,
  ind,
  tau = c(0.001, seq(0.005, 0.995, by = 0.01), 0.999),
  ...
)

mcqrnnQuants(
  data,
  A.root,
  ind,
  tau = seq(0.005, 0.995, by = 0.01),
  iter.max = 500,
  ...
)

**Arguments**

- **data** A data.frame with data to be used for quantile regression.
- **A.root** A logical(1L) indicating whether the protected attribute A is a root node of the causal graph. Used for splitting the quantile regression.
- **ind** A logical vector of length nrow(data), indicating which samples have the baseline value of the protected attribute.
Details

Within the package, there are 3 different methods implemented, which use quantile regressors based on linear models, random forests and neural networks. However, there is additional flexibility and the user can provide her/his own quantile method. For this, the user needs to write (i) the constructor which returns an S3 classed object (see examples below); (ii) a method for the `computeQuants()` generic for the S3 class returned in (i).

The `rangerQuants()` function uses random forests (`ranger` package) for quantile regression.

The `linearQuants()` function uses linear quantile regression (`quantreg` package) for the Quantile Learning step.

The `mcqrnnQuants()` function uses monotone quantile regression neural networks (`mcqrnn` package) in the Quantile Learning step.

Value

A `ranger` or a `rangersplit` S3 object, depending on the value of the A.root argument, for `rangerQuants()`.

A `rqs` or a `quantregsplit` S3 object, depending on the value of the A.root argument, for `linearQuants()`.

An `mcqrnn` S3 object for `mcqrnnQuants()`.

uni_admission

University admission data of 1,000 students.

Description

A simulated dataset containing the evaluation of students' abilities.

Usage

uni_admission

Format

A data frame with 1,000 rows and 4 variables:

- **gender**: the gender of the student
- **edu**: educational achievement, for instance GPA
- **test**: performance on a university admission test
- **score**: overall final score measuring the quality of a candidate
visualizeGraph

Visualize Graphical Causal Model

Description

Visualize Graphical Causal Model

Usage

visualizeGraph(x, ...)

Arguments

x Object of class fairadapt, a result of an adaptation procedure.
... Additional arguments passed to the graph plotting function.
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