Package 'monmlp'

July 23, 2025

Title Multi-Layer Perceptron Neural Network with Optional Monotonicity

Type Package

Constraints
Version 1.1.5-1
Description Train and make predictions from a multi-layer perceptron neural network with optional partial monotonicity constraints.
License GPL-2
LazyLoad yes
Depends optimx
Repository CRAN
NeedsCompilation no
Author Alex J. Cannon [aut, cre] (ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8025-3790)
Maintainer Alex J. Cannon <alex.cannon@canada.ca></alex.cannon@canada.ca>
Date/Publication 2025-03-24 21:50:05 UTC
Contents
monmlp-package
gam.style
linear
linear.prime
logistic
logistic.prime
monmlp.fit
monmlp.predict
tansig
tansig.prime
Index 11

2 monmlp-package

monmlp-package

Monotone Multi-Layer Perceptron Neural Network

Description

The monmlp package implements one and two hidden-layer multi-layer perceptron neural network (MLP) models. An optional monotone constraint, which guarantees monotonically increasing behaviour of model outputs with respect to specified covariates, can be added to the MLP. The resulting monotone MLP (MONMLP) regression model is based on Zhang and Zhang (1999).

Early stopping can be combined with bootstrap aggregation to control overfitting. The model reduces to a standard MLP neural network if the monotone constraint is not invoked.

MLP and MONMLP models are fit using the monmlp.fit function. Predictions from a fitted model are made using the monmlp.predict function. The gam.style function can be used to investigate fitted covariate/response relationships.

Details

Package: monmlp Type: Package License: GPL-2 LazyLoad: yes

References

Lang, B., 2005. Monotonic multi-layer perceptron networks as universal approximators. In: W. Duch et al. (eds.): ICANN 2005, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, 3697:31-37. doi:10.1007/11550907

Minin, A., Velikova, M., Lang, B., and Daniels, H., 2010. Comparison of universal approximators incorporating partial monotonicity by structure. Neural Networks, 23:471-475. doi:10.1016/j.neunet.2009.09.002

Zhang, H. and Zhang, Z., 1999. Feedforward networks with monotone constraints. In: International Joint Conference on Neural Networks, vol. 3, p. 1820-1823. doi:10.1109/IJCNN.1999.832655

Examples

```
set.seed(123)
x <- as.matrix(seq(-10, 10, length = 100))
y <- logistic(x) + rnorm(100, sd = 0.2)

dev.new()
plot(x, y)
lines(x, logistic(x), lwd = 10, col = "gray")</pre>
```

gam.style 3

gam.style

GAM-style effects plots for interpreting MLP and MONMLP models

Description

GAM-style effects plots provide a graphical means of interpreting fitted covariate/response relationships. From Plate et al. (2000): The effect of the ith input variable at a particular input point Delta.i.x is the change in f resulting from changing X1 to x1 from b1 (the baseline value [...]) while keeping the other inputs constant. The effects are plotted as short line segments, centered at (x.i, Delta.i.x), where the slope of the segment is given by the partial derivative. Variables that strongly influence the function value have a large total vertical range of effects. Functions without interactions appear as possibly broken straight lines (linear functions) or curves (nonlinear functions). Interactions show up as vertical spread at a particular horizontal location, that is, a vertical scattering of segments. Interactions are present when the effect of a variable depends on the values of other variables.

Usage

Arguments

X	matrix with number of rows equal to the number of samples and number of columns equal to the number of covariate variables.
weights	list returned by monmlp.fit.
column	column of x for which effects plots should be returned.
baseline	value of $x[,column]$ to be used as the baseline for calculation of covariate effects; defaults to mean($x[,column]$).
epsilon	step-size used in the finite difference calculation of the partial derivatives.
seg.len	length of effects line segments expressed as a fraction of the range of x[,column].

4 linear

seg. cols colors of effects line segments.

plot if TRUE (the default) then an effects plots for each response variable is produced. return.results if TRUE then values of effects and partial derivatives for each response variable

are returned.

.. further arguments to be passed to plot.

Value

A list with elements:

effects a matrix of covariate effects.

partials a matrix of covariate partial derivatives.

References

Cannon, A.J. and I.G. McKendry, 2002. A graphical sensitivity analysis for interpreting statistical climate models: Application to Indian monsoon rainfall prediction by artificial neural networks and multiple linear regression models. International Journal of Climatology, 22:1687-1708.

Plate, T., J. Bert, J. Grace, and P. Band, 2000. Visualizing the function computed by a feedforward neural network. Neural Computation, 12(6): 1337-1354.

See Also

```
monmlp.fit, monmlp.predict
```

Examples

linear

Identity function

Description

Computes a trivial identity function. Used as the hidden layer transfer function for linear MLP or MONMLP models.

Usage

```
linear(x)
```

linear.prime 5

Arguments

x numeric vector.

See Also

linear.prime

linear.prime

Derivative of the linear function

Description

Derivative of the linear function.

Usage

```
linear.prime(x)
```

Arguments

X

numeric vector.

See Also

linear

logistic

Logistic sigmoid function

Description

Computes the logistic sigmoid function. Used as a hidden layer transfer function for nonlinear MLP or MONMLP models.

Usage

```
logistic(x)
```

Arguments

Χ

numeric vector.

See Also

```
logistic.prime
```

6 monmlp.fit

logistic.prime

Derivative of the logistic sigmoid function

Description

Derivative of the logistic sigmoid function.

Usage

```
logistic.prime(x)
```

Arguments

х

numeric vector.

See Also

logistic

monmlp.fit

Fit one or more MLP or MONMLP models

Description

Fit an individual model or ensemble of MLP or MONMLP regression models using optimization routines to minimize a least squares cost function. Optional stopped training and bootstrap aggregation (bagging) can be used to help avoid overfitting.

If invoked, the monotone argument enforces increasing behaviour between specified columns of x and model outputs. In this case, the exp function is applied to the relevant weights following initialization and during optimization; manual adjustment of init.weights may be needed.

Note: x and y are automatically standardized prior to fitting and predictions are automatically rescaled by monmlp.predict. This behaviour can be suppressed for y by the scale.y argument.

Usage

monmlp.fit 7

Arguments

X	covariate matrix with number of rows equal to the number of samples and number of columns equal to the number of covariates.
.,	•
У	response matrix with number of rows equal to the number of samples and number of columns equal to the number of response variables.
hidden1	number of hidden nodes in the first hidden layer.
hidden2	number of hidden nodes in the second hidden layer.
iter.max	maximum number of iterations of the optimization algorithm.
n.trials	number of repeated trials used to avoid local minima.
n.ensemble	number of ensemble members to fit.
bag	logical variable indicating whether or not bootstrap aggregation (bagging) should be used.
cases.specifie	d
	if bag = TRUE, a list that specifies the bootstrapped cases to be used in each ensemble member.
iter.stopped	if bag = TRUE, specifies the number of stopped training iterations between calculation of the cost function on the out-of-bootstrap cases.
scale.y	logical determining if columns of the response matrix should be scaled to zero mean and unit variance prior to fitting. Set this to FALSE if using an output layer transfer function that limits the range of predictions.
Th	hidden layer transfer function.
То	output layer transfer function.
Th.prime	derivative of the hidden layer transfer function.
To.prime	derivative of the output layer transfer function.
monotone	column indices of covariates for which the monotonicity constraint should hold.
init.weights	either a vector giving the minimum and maximum allowable values of the random weights, an initial weight vector, or NULL to calculate based on fan-in.
max.exceptions	maximum number of exceptions of the optimization routine before fitting is terminated with an error.
silent	logical determining if diagnostic messages should be suppressed.
method	optimx optimization method.
control	list of optimx control parameters.

Value

list containing fitted weight matrices with attributes including called values of x, y, Th, To, Th.prime, To.prime, monotone, bag, iter.max, and iter.stopped, along with values of covariate/response column means and standard deviations (x.center, x.scale, y.center, y.scale), out-of-bootstrap cases oob, predicted values y.pred, and, if stopped training is switched on, the iteration iter.best and value of the cost function cost.best that minimized the out-of-bootstrap validation error.

See Also

monmlp.predict, gam.style

8 monmlp.predict

Examples

```
set.seed(123)
x <- as.matrix(seq(-10, 10, length = 100))
y \leftarrow logistic(x) + rnorm(100, sd = 0.2)
dev.new()
plot(x, y)
lines(x, logistic(x), lwd = 10, col = "gray")
## MLP w/ 2 hidden nodes
w.mlp <- monmlp.fit(x = x, y = y, hidden1 = 2, iter.max = 500)
lines(x, attr(w.mlp, "y.pred"), col = "red", lwd = 3)
## MLP w/ 2 hidden nodes and stopped training
w.stp <- monmlp.fit(x = x, y = y, hidden1 = 2, bag = TRUE,
                    iter.max = 500, iter.stopped = 10)
lines(x, attr(w.stp, "y.pred"), col = "orange", lwd = 3)
## MONMLP w/ 2 hidden nodes
w.mon <- monmlp.fit(x = x, y = y, hidden1 = 2, monotone = 1,
                    iter.max = 500)
lines(x, attr(w.mon, "y.pred"), col = "blue", lwd = 3)
```

monmlp.predict

Make predictions from a fitted MLP or MONMLP model

Description

Make predictions from a fitted model or ensemble of MLP or MONMLP models.

Usage

```
monmlp.predict(x, weights)
```

Arguments

covariate matrix with number of rows equal to the number of samples and number of columns equal to the number of covariates.
 list containing weight matrices and other parameters from monmlp.fit.

Value

a matrix with number of rows equal to the number of samples and number of columns equal to the number of response variables. If weights is from an ensemble of models, the matrix is the ensemble mean and the attribute ensemble contains a list with predictions for each ensemble member.

See Also

```
monmlp.fit
```

tansig 9

Examples

```
set.seed(123)
x <- as.matrix(seq(-10, 10, length = 100))
y \leftarrow logistic(x) + rnorm(100, sd = 0.2)
dev.new()
plot(x, y)
lines(x, logistic(x), lwd = 10, col = "gray")
## Ensemble of MONMLP models w/ 3 hidden nodes
w.mon <- monmlp.fit(x = x, y = y, hidden1 = 3, monotone = 1,
                    n.ensemble = 15, bag = TRUE, iter.max = 500,
                    control = list(trace = 0))
p.mon <- monmlp.predict(x = x, weights = w.mon)</pre>
## Plot predictions from ensemble members
matlines(x = x, y = do.call(cbind, attr(p.mon, "ensemble")),
         col = "cyan", lty = 2)
## Plot ensemble mean
lines(x, p.mon, col = "blue", lwd = 3)
```

tansig

Hyperbolic tangent sigmoid function

Description

Computes the hyperbolic tangent sigmoid function. Used as a hidden layer transfer function for nonlinear MLP or MONMLP models.

Usage

```
tansig(x)
```

Arguments

Х

numeric vector.

See Also

```
tansig.prime
```

10 tansig.prime

 ${\tt tansig.prime}$

Derivative of the hyperbolic tangent function

Description

Derivative of the hyperbolic tangent function.

Usage

```
tansig.prime(x)
```

Arguments

Х

numeric vector.

See Also

tansig

Index

```
* package
monmlp-package, 2

gam.style, 2, 3, 7

linear, 4, 5
linear.prime, 5, 5
logistic, 5, 6
logistic.prime, 5, 6

monmlp (monmlp-package), 2
monmlp-package, 2
monmlp.fit, 2-4, 6, 8
monmlp.predict, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8

optimx, 6, 7

tansig, 9, 10
tansig.prime, 9, 10
```