Package 'stratamatch'

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Description A pilot matching design to automatically
     stratify and match large datasets. The manual_stratify() function allows
     users to manually stratify a dataset based on categorical variables of
     interest, while the auto_stratify() function does automatically by
     allocating a held-aside (pilot) data set, fitting a prognostic score
     (see Hansen (2008) <doi:10.1093/biomet/asn004>) on the pilot set, and stratify-
     ing the data set based
     on prognostic score quantiles. The strata_match() function then does optimal
     matching of the data set in parallel within strata.
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auto_	stratify Auto Stratify	

Description

Automatically creates strata for matching based on a prognostic score formula or a vector of prognostic scores already estimated by the user. Creates a auto_strata object, which can be passed to strata_match for stratified matching or unpacked by the user to be matched by some other means.

Usage

```
auto_stratify(
  data,
  treat,
  prognosis,
  outcome = NULL,
  size = 2500,
  pilot_fraction = 0.1,
```

```
pilot_size = NULL,
pilot_sample = NULL,
group_by_covariates = NULL)
```

Arguments

data data. frame with observations as rows, features as columns

treat string giving the name of column designating treatment assignment

prognosis information on how to build prognostic scores. Three different input types are

allowed:

1. vector of prognostic scores for all individuals in the data set. Should be in the same order as the rows of data.

2. a formula for fitting a prognostic model

3. an already-fit prognostic score model

outcome string giving the name of column with outcome information. Required if prog-

nostic_scores is specified. Otherwise it will be inferred from prog_formula

size numeric, desired size of strata (default = 2500)

pilot_fraction numeric between 0 and 1 giving the proportion of controls to be allotted for

building the prognostic score (default = 0.1)

pilot_size alternative to pilot_fraction. Approximate number of observations to be used

in pilot set. Note that the actual pilot set size returned may not be exactly pilot_size if group_by_covariates is specified because balancing by covariates may result in deviations from desired size. If pilot_size is specified,

pilot_fraction is ignored.

pilot_sample a data.frame of held aside samples for building prognostic score model. If

pilot_sample is specified, pilot_size and pilot_fraction are both ignored.

group_by_covariates

character vector giving the names of covariates to be grouped by (optional). If specified, the pilot set will be sampled in a stratified manner, so that the composition of the pilot set reflects the composition of the whole data set in terms of

these covariates. The specified covariates must be categorical.

Details

Stratifying by prognostic score quantiles can be more effective than manually stratifying a data set because the prognostic score is continuous, thus the strata produced tend to be of equal size with similar prognosis.

Automatic stratification requires information on how the prognostic scores should be derived. This is primarily determined by the specification of the prognosis argument. Three main forms of input for prognosis are allowed:

1. A vector of prognostic scores. This vector should be the same length and order of the rows in the data set. If this method is used, the outcome argument must also be specified; this is simply a string giving the name of the column which contains outcome information.

2. A formula for prognosis (e.g. outcome ~ X1 + X2). If this method is used, auto_stratify will automatically split the data set into a pilot_set and an analysis_set. The pilot set will be used to fit a logistic regression model for outcome in the absence of treatment, and this model will be used to estimate prognostic scores on the analysis set. The analysis set will then be stratified based on the estimated prognostic scores. In this case the outcome argument need not be specified since it can be inferred from the input formula.

3. A model for prognosis (e.g. a glm object). If this method is used, the outcome argument must also be specified

Value

Returns an auto_strata object. This contains:

- outcome a string giving the name of the column where outcome information is stored
- treat a string giving the name of the column encoding treatment assignment
- analysis_set the data set with strata assignments
- call the call to auto_stratify used to generate this object
- issue_table a table of each stratum and potential issues of size and treat:control balance. In small or imbalanced strata, it may be difficult or infeasible to find high-quality matches, while very large strata may be computationally intensive to match.
- strata_table a table of each stratum and the prognostic score quantile bin to which it corresponds
- prognostic_scores a vector of prognostic scores.
- prognostic_model a model for prognosis fit on a pilot data set. Will be NULL if a vector of prognostic scores was provided as the prognosis argument to auto_stratify rather than a model or formula.
- pilot_set the set of controls used to fit the prognostic model. These are excluded from subsequent analysis so that the prognostic score is not overfit to the data used to estimate the treatment effect. Will be NULL if a pre-fit model or a vector of prognostic scores was provided as the prognosis argument to auto_stratify rather than formula.

Troubleshooting

This section suggests fixes for common errors that appear while fitting the prognostic score or using it to estimate prognostic scores on the analysis set.

- Encountered an error while fitting the prognostic model... numeric probabilities 0 or 1 produced. This error means that the prognostic model can perfectly separate positive from negative outcomes. Estimating a treatment effect in this case is unwise since an individual's baseline characteristics perfectly determine their outcome, regardless of whether they receive the treatment. This error may also appear on rare occasions when your pilot set is very small (number of observations approximately <= number of covariates in the prognostic model), so that perfect separation happens by chance.
- Encountered an error while estimating prognostic scores ... factor X has new levels ... This may indicate that some value(s) of one or more categorical variables appear in the analysis set which were not seen in the pilot set. This means that when we try to obtain prognostic scores for our analysis set, we run into some new value that our prognostic model was not prepared to handle. There are a few options we have to troubleshoot this problem:

Rejection sampling. Run auto_stratify again with the same arguments until this error
does not occur (i.e. until some observations with the missing value are randomly selected
into the pilot set)

- Eliminate this covariate from the prognostic formula.
- Remove observations with the rare covariate value from the entire data set. Consider carefully how this exclusion might affect your results.

Other errors or warnings can occur if the pilot set is too small and the prognostic formula is too complicated. Always make sure that the number of observations in the pilot set is large enough that you can confidently fit a prognostic model with the number of covariates you want.

See Also

```
manual_stratify, new_auto_strata
```

```
# make sample data set
set.seed(111)
dat <- make_sample_data(n = 75)</pre>
# construct a pilot set, build a prognostic score for `outcome` based on X2
\# and stratify the data set based on the scores into sets of about 25
# observations
a.strat_formula <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", outcome ~ X2, size = 25)</pre>
# stratify the data set based on a model for prognosis
pilot_data <- make_sample_data(n = 30)</pre>
prognostic_model <- glm(outcome ~ X2, pilot_data, family = "binomial")</pre>
a.strat_model <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", prognostic_model,</pre>
 outcome = "outcome", size = 25
)
# stratify the data set based on a vector of prognostic scores
prognostic_scores <- predict(prognostic_model,</pre>
 newdata = dat,
 type = "response"
a.strat_scores <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", prognostic_scores,</pre>
 outcome = "outcome", size = 25
# diagnostic plots
plot(a.strat_formula)
plot(a.strat_formula, type = "AC", propensity = treat ~ X1, stratum = 1)
plot(a.strat_formula, type = "hist", propensity = treat ~ X1, stratum = 1)
plot(a.strat_formula, type = "residual")
```

 $extract_cut_points$

Extract cutoffs between strata

Description

By default, returns only the internal cut points. Cutoffs at 0 and 1 are implied.

Usage

```
extract_cut_points(x)
```

Arguments

Х

an autostrata object

Value

a vector of the score values delineating cutoffs between strata

Examples

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
a.strat <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", outcome ~ X1 + X2)
cutoffs <- extract_cut_points(a.strat)</pre>
```

```
extract_cut_points.auto_strata
```

Extract cutoffs between strata

Description

Extract cutoffs between strata

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'auto_strata'
extract_cut_points(x)
```

Arguments

Х

an autostrata object

Value

a vector of the score values delineating cutoffs between strata

ICU_data 7

ICU_data

Demographics and comorbidities of 10,157 ICU patients

Description

An deidentified data set containing the demographics, comorbidities, DNR code status, and surgical team assignment of 10,157 patients in the Stanford University Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU). This data was extracted from the electronic record system, deidentified, and made publically available by Chavez et al (2018) <doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0190569>. It was reprocessed for use in the stratamatch package as a sample data set. For more details on the data extraction and inclusion criteria, see Chavez et al.

Usage

ICU_data

Format

A data frame with 10157 rows and 29 variables:

patid patient id, numeric

Birth.preTimeDays age of patient at time of admission to the ICU in days, numeric

Female.pre whether the patient was documented to be female prior to ICU visit, binary

RaceAsian.pre whether the patient's race/ethnicity was documented as Asian prior to ICU visit, binary

RaceUnknown.pre whether the patient's race/ethnicity was unknown prior to ICU visit, binary

RaceOther.pre whether the patient's race/ethnicity was documented as Other" prior to ICU visit, binary

RaceBlack.pre whether the patient's race/ethnicity was documented as Black/African American prior to ICU visit, binary

RacePacificIslander.pre whether the patient's race/ethnicity was documented as PacificIslander prior to ICU visit, binary

RaceNativeAmerican.pre whether the patient's race/ethnicity was documented as Native American prior to ICU visit, binary

self_pay whether the patient was "self pay" (i.e. uninsured), binary

all_latinos whether the patient was documented to be latino prior to ICU visit, binary

DNR whether the patient had code status set to any DNR "Do not resuscitate" order at any point during their ICU stay, binary

surgicalTeam whether the patient was assigned to a surgical team at any point during their ICU stay, binary

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Details

License information for this data is as follows:

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Source

https://simtk.org/frs/download_confirm.php/latestzip/1969/ICUDNR-latest.zip?group_ id=892

is.auto_strata

Checks auto_strata class

Description

Checks if the target object is an auto_strata object.

Usage

```
is.auto_strata(object)
```

Arguments

object

any R object

Value

Returns TRUE if its argument has auto_strata among its classes and FALSE otherwise.

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
a.strat <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", outcome ~ X1 + X2)
is.auto_strata(a.strat) # returns TRUE</pre>
```

is.manual_strata 9

is.manual_strata

Checks manual_strata class

Description

Checks if the target object is a manual_strata object.

Usage

```
is.manual_strata(object)
```

Arguments

object

any R object

Value

Returns TRUE if its argument has manual_strata among its classes and FALSE otherwise.

Examples

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
m.strat <- manual_stratify(dat, treat ~ C1)
is.manual_strata(m.strat) # returns TRUE</pre>
```

is.strata

Checks strata class

Description

Checks if the target object is a strata object.

Usage

```
is.strata(object)
```

Arguments

object

any R object

Value

Returns TRUE if its argument has strata among its classes and FALSE otherwise.

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
m.strat <- manual_stratify(dat, treat ~ C1)
is.strata(m.strat) # returns TRUE</pre>
```

Description

Makes the match distance with strata specifications for strata_match. This function is largely unecessary to call outside of stratamatch, but it is exported for the benefit of the user to aid in debugging. Note that this function requires that the R package optmatch is installed.

Usage

```
make_match_distances(object, model, method)
```

Arguments

object a strata object

model (optional) formula for matching. If left blank, *all* columns of the analysis set in

object will be used as covariates in the propensity model or mahalanobis match

(except outcome, treatment and stratum)

method either "prop" for propensity score matching based on a glm fit with model model,

or "mahal" for mahalanobis distance matching by the covariates in model.

Value

a match distance matrix for optmatch

See Also

```
https://cran.r-project.org/package=optmatch
```

```
dat <- make_sample_data(n = 75)
# stratify with auto_stratify
a.strat <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", outcome ~ X2, size = 25)
# make match distances. Requires optmatch package to be installed.
md <- make_match_distances(a.strat, treat ~ X1 + X2, method = "mahal")</pre>
```

make_sample_data 11

Description

Makes a simple data frame with treat (binary), outcome (binary), and five covariates: X1 (continuous), X2 (continuous), B1 (binary), B2 (binary), and C1 (categorical). Probability outcome = 1 is sigmoid(treat + X1). Probability treatment = 1 is sigmoid(- 0.2 * X1 + X2 - B1 + 2 * B2)

Usage

```
make_sample_data(n = 100)
```

Arguments

n

the size of the desired data set

Examples

```
# make sample data set of 30 observations
dat <- make_sample_data(n = 30)</pre>
```

manual_stratify

Manual Stratify

Description

Stratifies a data set based on a set of blocking covariates specified by the user. Creates a manual_strata object, which can be passed to strata_match for stratified matching or unpacked by the user to be matched by some other means.

Usage

```
manual_stratify(data, strata_formula, force = FALSE)
```

Arguments

data	data.frame with observations as rows, features as columns
strata_formula	the formula to be used for stratification. (e.g. treat \sim X1) the variable on the left is taken to be the name of the treatment assignment column, and the variables on the left are taken to be the variables by which the data should be stratified
force	a boolean. If true, run even if a variable appears continuous. (default = FALSE)

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Value

Returns a manual_strata object. This contains:

- treat a string giving the name of the column encoding treatment assignment
- covariates a character vector with the names of the categorical columns on which the data were stratified
- analysis_set the data set with strata assignments
- call the call to manual_stratify used to generate this object
- issue_table a table of each stratum and potential issues of size and treat:control balance. In small or imbalanced strata, it may be difficult or infeasible to find high-quality matches, while very large strata may be computationally intensive to match.
- strata_table a table of each stratum and the covariate bin to which it corresponds

See Also

```
auto_stratify, new_manual_strata
```

Examples

```
# make sample data set
dat <- make_sample_data(n = 75)

# stratify based on B1 and B2
m.strat <- manual_stratify(dat, treat ~ B1 + B2)

# diagnostic plot
plot(m.strat)</pre>
```

plot.auto_strata

Plot method for auto_strata object

Description

Generates diagnostic plots for the product of a stratification by auto_stratify. There are four plot types:

- 1. "SR" (default) produces a scatter plot of strata by size and treat:control ratio
- 2. "hist" produces a histogram of propensity scores within a stratum
- 3. "AC" produces a Assignment-Control plot of individuals within a stratum
- 4. "residual" produces a residual plot for the prognostic model

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Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'auto_strata'
plot(
    x,
    type = "SR",
    label = FALSE,
    stratum = "all",
    strata_lines = TRUE,
    jitter_prognosis,
    jitter_propensity,
    propensity,
    ...
)
```

Arguments

	X	an auto_strata object returned by auto_stratify
	type	string giving the plot type (default = "SR"). Other options are "hist", "AC" and "residual"
	label	ignored unless type = "SR". If TRUE, a clickable plot is produced. The user may click on any number of strata and press finish to have those strata labeled. Note: uses identify, which may not be supported on some devices
	stratum	ignored unless type = "hist" or type = "AC". A number specifying which stratum to plot.
	strata_lines	$\mbox{default} = \mbox{TRUE. Ignored unless type} = \mbox{"AC". If TRUE, lines on the plot indicate strata cut points.}$
jitter_prognosis		
		ignored unless type = "AC". Amount of uniform random noise to add to prognostic scores in plot.
jitter_propensity		
		ignored unless type = "AC". Amount of uniform random noise to add to propensity scores in plot.
	propensity	ignored unless type = "hist" or type = "AC". Specifies propensity score information for plots where this is required. Accepts either a vector of propensity scores, a glm model for propensity scores, or a formula for fitting a propensity score model.
		other arguments

See Also

Aikens, Greaves, and Baiocchi (2020) in Statistics in Medicine, Section 3.2 for an explaination of Assignment-Control plots (formerly "Fisher-Mill" plots).

```
plot.manual_strata
```

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Examples

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
a.strat <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", outcome ~ X1 + X2)
plot(a.strat) # makes size-ratio scatter plot
plot(a.strat, type = "hist", propensity = treat ~ X1, stratum = 1)
plot(a.strat, type = "AC", propensity = treat ~ X1, stratum = 1)
plot(a.strat, type = "residual")</pre>
```

plot.manual_strata

Plot method for manual_strata object

Description

Generates diagnostic plots for the product of a stratification by manual_stratify. There are two plot types:

- 1. "SR" (default) produces a scatter plot of strata by size and treat:control ratio
- 2. "hist" produces a histogram of propensity scores within a stratum.

Note that residual plots and AC plots are not supported for manual_strata objects because no prognostic model is fit.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'manual_strata'
plot(x, type = "SR", label = FALSE, stratum = "all", propensity, ...)
```

Arguments

X	a manual_strata object returned by manual_stratify
type	string giving the plot type (default = "SR"). Other option is "hist"
label	ignored unless type = "SR". If TRUE, a clickable plot is produced. The user may click on any number of strata and press finish to have those strata labeled. Note: uses identify, which may not be supported on some devices
stratum	ignored unless type = "hist". A number specifying which stratum to plot.
propensity	ignored unless type = "hist". Specifies propensity score information for plots where this is required. Accepts either a vector of propensity scores, a glm model for propensity scores, or a formula for fitting a propensity score model.
	other arguments

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
m.strat <- manual_stratify(dat, treat ~ C1)
plot(m.strat) # makes size-ratio scatter plot
plot(m.strat, type = "hist", propensity = treat ~ X1, stratum = 1)</pre>
```

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print.auto_strata

Print Auto Strata

Description

Print method for auto_strata object

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'auto_strata'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

```
x an auto_strata object ... other arguments
```

Examples

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
a.strat <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", outcome ~ X1 + X2)
print(a.strat) # prints information about a.strat</pre>
```

print.manual_strata

Print Manual Strata

Description

Print method for manual_strata object

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'manual_strata'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

```
x a manual_strata object
... other arguments
```

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
m.strat <- manual_stratify(dat, treat ~ C1)
print(m.strat) # prints information about m.strat</pre>
```

split_pilot_set

split_pilot_set

Split data into pilot and analysis sets

Description

Given a data set and some parameters about how to split the data, this function partitions the data accordingly and returns the partitioned data as a list containing the analysis_set and pilot_set.

Usage

```
split_pilot_set(
  data,
  treat,
  pilot_fraction = 0.1,
  pilot_size = NULL,
  group_by_covariates = NULL)
```

Arguments

data data.frame with observations as rows, features as columns

treat string giving the name of column designating treatment assignment

numeric between 0 and 1 giving the proportion of controls to be allotted for building the prognostic score (default = 0.1)

pilot_size alternative to pilot_fraction. Approximate number of observations to be used in pilot set. Note that the actual pilot set size returned may not be exactly pilot_size if group_by_covariates is specified because balancing by covariates may result in deviations from desired size. If pilot_size is specified, pilot_fraction is ignored.

group_by_covariates

character vector giving the names of covariates to be grouped by (optional). If specified, the pilot set will be sampled in a stratified manner, so that the composition of the pilot set reflects the composition of the whole data set in terms of these covariates. The specified covariates must be categorical.

Value

a list with analaysis_set and pilot_set

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
splt <- split_pilot_set(dat, "treat", 0.2)
# can be passed into auto_stratify if desired
a.strat <- auto_stratify(splt$analysis_set, "treat", outcome ~ X1,
    pilot_sample = splt$pilot_set
)</pre>
```

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stratamatch stratamatch: stratify and match large data sets

Description

This package employs a pilot matching design to automatically stratify and match large datasets. The manual_stratify function allows users to manually stratify a dataset based on categorical variables of interest, while the auto_stratify function does automatically by allocating a held-aside (pilot) data set, fitting a prognostic score (see Hansen (2008) <doi:10.1093/biomet/asn004>) on the pilot set, and stratifying the data set based on prognostic score quantiles. The strata_match function then does optimal matching of the data set within strata.

See Also

1. https://github.com/raikens1/stratamatch

Description

Match within strata in series using optmatch. Note that this function requires that the R package optmatch is installed.

Usage

```
strata_match(object, model = NULL, method = "prop", k = 1)
```

Arguments

object	a strata object
model	(optional) formula for matching. If left blank, <i>all</i> columns of the analysis set in object will be used as covariates in the propensity model or mahalanobis match (except outcome, treatment and stratum)
method	either "prop" for propensity score matching based on a glm fit with model model, or "mahal" for mahalanobis distance matching by the covariates in model.
k	the number of control individuals to be matched to each treated individual. If "k = full" is used, fullmatching is done instead of pairmatching

Value

a named factor with matching assignments

See Also

```
https://cran.r-project.org/package=optmatch
```

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Examples

```
# make a sample data set
set.seed(1)
dat <- make_sample_data(n = 75)

# stratify with auto_stratify
a.strat <- auto_stratify(dat, "treat", outcome ~ X2, size = 25)

# 1:1 match based on propensity formula: treat ~ X1 + X2
# Requires optmatch package to be installed.

strata_match(a.strat, model = treat ~ X1 + X2, k = 1)

# full match within strata based on mahalanobis distance.
# Requires optmatch package to be installed.

strata_match(a.strat, model = treat ~ X1 + X2, method = "mahal", k = 1)</pre>
```

summary.strata

Summary for strata object

Description

Summarize number and sizes of strata in a strata object. Also prints number of strata with potential issues.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'strata'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

```
object a strata object ... other arguments
```

Details

For more information, access the issue table for your strata object with mystrata\$issue_table.

```
dat <- make_sample_data()
m.strat <- manual_stratify(dat, treat ~ C1)
summary(m.strat) # Summarizes strata in m.strat</pre>
```

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