Package 'cforward'

July 22, 2025

Title Forward Selection using Concordance/C-Index

Version 0.2.0

Description Performs forward model selection, using the C-index/concordance in survival analysis models.

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Imports survival, dplyr, stats, magrittr, tibble

URL https://github.com/muschellij2/cforward

BugReports https://github.com/muschellij2/cforward/issues

Depends R (>= 2.10)

Suggests testthat

NeedsCompilation no

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Contents

cforward *Forward Selection Based on C-Index/Concordance*

Description

Forward Selection Based on C-Index/Concordance

Usage

```
cforward(
  data,
  event_time = "event_time_years",
  event_status = "mortstat",
  weight_column = "WTMEC4YR_norm",
  variables = NULL,
  included_variables = NULL,
  n_folds = 10,
  seed = 1989,
  max_model_size = 50,
  c_threshold = NULL,
  verbose = TRUE,
  cfit_args = list(),
  save_memory = FALSE,
  ...
)

cforward_one(
  data,
  event_time = "event_time_years",
  event_status = "mortstat",
  weight_column = "WTMEC4YR_norm",
  variables,
  included_variables = NULL,
  verbose = TRUE,
  cfit_args = list(),
  save_memory = FALSE,
  ...
)

make_folds(data, event_status = "mortstat", n_folds = 10, verbose = TRUE)
```

Arguments

data	A data set to perform model selection and cross-validation.
event_time	Character vector of length 1 with event times, passed to Surv
event_status	Character vector of length 1 with event status, passed to Surv

weight_column	Character vector of length 1 with weights for model. If no weights are available, set to NULL
variables	Character vector of variables to perform selection. Must be in data.
included_variables	Character vector of variables forced to have in the model. Must be in data
n_folds	Number of folds for Cross-validation. If you want to run on the full data, set to 1
seed	Seed set before folds are created.
max_model_size	maximum number of variables in the model. Selection will stop if reached. Note, this does not correspond to the number of coefficients, due to categorical variables.
c_threshold	threshold for concordance. If the difference in the best concordance and this one does not reach a certain threshold, break.
verbose	print diagnostic messages
cfit_args	Arguments passed to concordancefit. If strata is to be passed, set strata_column in this list.
save_memory	save only a minimal amount of information, discard the fitted models
...	Additional arguments to pass to coxph

Value

A list of lists, with elements of:

full_concordance Concordance when fit on the full data

models Cox model from full data set fit, stripped of large memory elements

cv_concordance Cross-validated Concordance

included_variables Variables included in the model, other than those being selection upon

Examples

```
variables = c("gender",
              "age_years_interview", "education_adult")

res = cforward(nhanes_example,
               event_time = "event_time_years",
               event_status = "mortstat",
               weight_column = "WTMEC4YR_norm",
               variables = variables,
               included_variables = NULL,
               n_folds = 5,
               c_threshold = 0.02,
               seed = 1989,
               max_model_size = 50,
               verbose = TRUE)
conc = sapply(res, `[[`, "best_concordance")
```

```
res = cforward(nhanes_example,
               event_time = "event_time_years",
               event_status = "mortstat",
               weight_column = "WTMEC4YR_norm",
               variables = variables,
               included_variables = NULL,
               n_folds = 5,
               seed = 1989,
               max_model_size = 50,
               verbose = TRUE)
conc = sapply(res, `[[`, "best_concordance")
threshold = 0.01
included_variables = names(conc)[c(1, diff(conc)) > threshold]

new_variables = c("diabetes", "stroke")
second_level = cforward(nhanes_example,
               event_time = "event_time_years",
               event_status = "mortstat",
               weight_column = "WTMEC4YR_norm",
               variables = new_variables,
               included_variables = included_variables,
               n_folds = 5,
               seed = 1989,
               max_model_size = 50,
               verbose = TRUE)
second_conc = sapply(second_level, `[[`, "best_concordance")
result = second_level[[which.max(second_conc)]]
final_model = result$models[[which.max(result$cv_concordance)]]
```

`estimate_concordance` *Estimate Out-of-Sample Concordance*

Description

Estimate Out-of-Sample Concordance

Usage

```
estimate_concordance(
  train,
  test = train,
  event_time = "event_time_years",
  event_status = "mortstat",
  weight_column = "WTMEC4YR_norm",
  all_variables = NULL,
  cfit_args = list(),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

`train`	A data set to perform model training.
`test`	A data set to estimate concordance, from fit model with `train`. Set to `train` if estimating on the same data
`event_time`	Character vector of length 1 with event times, passed to `Surv`
`event_status`	Character vector of length 1 with event status, passed to `Surv`
`weight_column`	Character vector of length 1 with weights for model. If no weights are available, set to `NULL`
`all_variables`	Character vector of variables to put in the model. All must be in `data`.
`cfit_args`	Arguments passed to `concordancefit`. If `strata` is to be passed, set `strata_column` in this list.
`...`	Additional arguments to pass to `coxph`

Value

A list of concordance and the model fit with the training data

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`nhanes_example` *Example Data from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey ('NHANES')*

Description

Example Data from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey ('NHANES')

Usage

```
nhanes_example
```

Format

A `data.frame` with 7 columns, which are:

SEQN ID of participant

mortstat mortality status, 1-died, 0 - censored

event_time_years time observed

WTMEC4YR_norm weights normalized for survey

gender gender

age_years_interview age in years at interview

education_adult educational status

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