

Package ‘hierNet’

September 9, 2026

Title A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions

Version 1.10.1

Description Fits sparse interaction models for continuous and binary responses subject to the strong (or weak) hierarchy restriction that an interaction between two variables only be included if both (or at least one of) the variables is included as a main effect. For more details, see Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) ``A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." Annals of Statistics. 41(3). 1111-1141.

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Author Jacob Bien [aut, cre],
Rob Tibshirani [aut]

Maintainer Jacob Bien <jbien@usc.edu>

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 hierNet

A Lasso for interactions

Description

One of the main functions in the hierNet package. Builds a regression model with hierarchically constrained pairwise interactions. Required inputs are an x matrix of features (the columns are the features) and a y vector of values. Reasonably fast for moderate sized problems (100-200 variables). We are currently working on an alternate algorithm for large scale problems.

Usage

```
hierNet(
  x,
  y,
  lam,
  delta = 1e-08,
  strong = FALSE,
  diagonal = TRUE,
  aa = NULL,
  zz = NULL,
  center = TRUE,
  stand.main = TRUE,
  stand.int = FALSE,
  rho = nrow(x),
  niter = 100,
  sym.eps = 0.001,
  step = 1,
  maxiter = 2000,
  backtrack = 0.2,
  tol = 1e-05,
  trace = 0
)
```

Arguments

x	A matrix of predictors, where the rows are the samples and the columns are the predictors
y	A vector of observations, where $\text{length}(y)$ equals $\text{nrow}(x)$
lam	Regularization parameter (>0). L1 penalty param is $\text{lam} * (1 - \text{delta})$.
delta	Elastic Net parameter. Squared L2 penalty param is $\text{lam} * \text{delta}$. Not a tuning parameter: Think of as fixed and small. Default 1e-8.
strong	Flag specifying strong hierarchy (TRUE) or weak hierarchy (FALSE). Default FALSE.
diagonal	Flag specifying whether to include "pure" quadratic terms, $\text{th_jj}X_j^2$, in the model. Default TRUE.

aa	An <i>optional</i> argument, a list with results from a previous call
zz	An <i>optional</i> argument, a matrix whose columns are products of features, computed by the function <code>compute.interactions.c</code>
center	Should features be centered? Default TRUE; FALSE should rarely be used. This option is available for special uses only
stand.main	Should main effects be standardized? Default TRUE.
stand.int	Should interactions be standardized? Default FALSE.
rho	ADMM parameter: tuning parameter (>0) for ADMM. If there are convergence problems, try decreasing rho. Default n.
niter	ADMM parameter: number of iterations
sym.eps	ADMM parameter: threshold for symmetrizing with <code>strong=TRUE</code>
step	Stepsize for generalized gradient descent
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for generalized gradient descent
backtrack	Backtrack parameter for generalized gradient descent
tol	Error tolerance parameter for generalized gradient descent
trace	Output option; <code>trace=1</code> gives verbose output

Value

bp	p-vector of estimated "positive part" main effect ($p=\#$ features)
bn	p-vector of estimated "negative part" main effect; overall main effect estimated coefficients are <code>bp-bn</code>
th	Matrix of estimated interaction coefficients, of dimension p by p . Note: when output from hierNet is printed, <code>th</code> is symmetrized (set to $(th+t(th))/2$) for simplicity.
obj	Value of objective function at minimum.
lam	Value of lambda used
type	Type of model fit- "gaussian" or "logistic" (binomial)
mx	p-vector of column means of x
sx	p-vector of column standard deviations of x
my	mean of y
mzz	column means of feature product matrix
szz	column standard deviations of feature product matrix
call	The call to hierNet

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[predict.hierNet](#), [hierNet.cv](#), [hierNet.path](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(12)
# fit a single hierNet model
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
fit=hierNet(x,y,lam=50)
print(fit)

# try strong (rather than weak) hierarchy
fit=hierNet(x,y,lam=50, strong=TRUE)
print(fit)

# a typical analysis including cross-validation
set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
fit=hierNet.path(x,y)
fitcv=hierNet.cv(fit,x,y)
print(fitcv)

lamhat=fitcv$lamhat.1se
fit2=hierNet(x,y,lam=lamhat)
yhat=predict(fit2,x)
```

hierNet.cv

Cross-validation function for hierNet

Description

Uses cross-validation to estimate the regularization parameter for hierNet

Usage

```
hierNet.cv(fit, x, y, nfolds = 10, folds = NULL, trace = 0)
```

Arguments

fit	Object returned from call to hierNet.path or hierNet.logistic.path. All parameter settings will be taken from this object.
x	A matrix of predictors, where the rows are the samples and the columns are the predictors

y	A vector of observations, where length(y) equals nrow(x)
nfolds	Number of cross-validation folds
folds	(Optional) user-supplied cross-validation folds. If provided, nfolds is ignored.
trace	Verbose output? 0=no, 1=yes

Value

lamlist	Vector of lambda values tried
cv.err	Estimate of cross-validation error
cv.se	Estimated standard error of cross-validation estimate
lamhat	lambda value minimizing cv.err
lamhat.1se	largest lambda value with cv.err less than or equal to min(cv.err)+ SE
folds	Indices of folds used in cross-validation
yhat	n by nlam matrix of predicted values. Here, ith prediction is based on training on all folds that do not include the ith data point.
nonzero	Vector giving number of non-zero coefficients for each lambda value
call	The call to hierNet.cv

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[hierNet](#), [hierNet.path](#), [hierNet.logistic](#), [hierNet.logistic.path](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
fit=hierNet.path(x,y)
fitcv=hierNet.cv(fit,x,y)
print(fitcv)
plot(fitcv)
```

```
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
y=1*(y>0)
```

```

fit=hierNet.logistic.path(x,y)
fitcv=hierNet.cv(fit,x,y)
print(fitcv)
plot(fitcv)

```

hierNet.logistic

A logistic regression Lasso for interactions

Description

One of the main functions in the hierNet package. Builds a logistic regression model with hierarchically constrained pairwise interactions. Required inputs are an x matrix of features (the columns are the features) and a y vector of values. Reasonably fast for moderate sized problems (100-200 variables). We are currently working on a alternate algorithm for large scale problems.

Usage

```

hierNet.logistic(
  x,
  y,
  lam,
  delta = 1e-08,
  diagonal = TRUE,
  strong = FALSE,
  aa = NULL,
  zz = NULL,
  center = TRUE,
  stand.main = TRUE,
  stand.int = FALSE,
  rho = nrow(x),
  niter = 100,
  sym.eps = 0.001,
  step = 1,
  maxiter = 2000,
  backtrack = 0.2,
  tol = 1e-05,
  trace = 1
)

```

Arguments

x	A matrix of predictors, where the rows are the samples and the columns are the predictors
y	A vector of observations, with values 0 or 1, where length(y) equals nrow(x)
lam	Regularization parameter (>0). L1 penalty param is lam * (1-delta).

delta	Elastic Net parameter. Squared L2 penalty param is $\lambda \text{ * delta}$. Not a tuning parameter: Think of as fixed and small. Default 1e-8.
diagonal	Flag specifying whether to include "pure" quadratic terms, th_jjX_j^2 , in the model. Default TRUE.
strong	Flag specifying strong hierarchy (TRUE) or weak hierarchy (FALSE). Default FALSE
aa	An <i>*optional*</i> argument, a list with results from a previous call
zz	An <i>*optional*</i> argument, a matrix whose columns are products of features, computed by the function <code>compute.interactions.c</code>
center	Should features be centered? Default TRUE; FALSE should rarely be used. This option is available for special uses only
stand.main	Should main effects be standardized? Default TRUE
stand.int	Should interactions be standardized? Default FALSE
rho	ADMM parameter: tuning parameter (>0) for ADMM. If there are convergence problems, try decreasing rho. Default n.
niter	ADMM parameter: number of iterations
sym.eps	ADMM parameter Thresholding for symmetrizing with <code>strong=TRUE</code>
step	Stepsize for generalized gradient descent
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for generalized gradient descent
backtrack	Backtrack parameter for generalized gradient descent
tol	Error tolerance parameter for generalized gradient descent
trace	Output option; <code>trace=1</code> gives verbose output

Value

b0	Intercept
bp	p-vector of estimated "positive part" main effect ($p=\text{\#features}$)
bn	p-vector of estimated "negative part" main effect; overall main effect estimated coefficients are <code>bp-bn</code>
th	Matrix of estimated interaction coefficients, of dimension p by p
obj	Value of objective function at minimum.
lam	Value of lambda used
type	Type of model fit- "gaussian" or "logistic" (binomial)
mx	p-vector of column means of x
my	Mean of y
sx	p-vector of column standard deviations of x
mzz	column means of feature product matrix
call	The call to <code>hierNet</code>

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[predict.hierNet.logistic](#), [hierNet.logistic.path](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
y=1*(y>0)
fit=hierNet.logistic(x,y,lam=5)
print(fit)
```

`hierNet.logistic.path` *Fit a path of logistic hierNet models- lasso models with interactions*

Description

One of the main functions in the hierNet package. Fits a logistic path of hierNet models over different values of the regularization parameter. Calls `hierNet.logistic`, which builds a regression model with hierarchically constrained pairwise interactions. Required inputs are an `x` matrix of features (the columns are the features) and a `y` vector of values. Reasonably fast for moderate sized problems (100-200 variables). We are currently working on a alternate algorithm for large scale problems.

Usage

```
hierNet.logistic.path(
  x,
  y,
  lamlist = NULL,
  delta = 1e-08,
  minlam = NULL,
  maxlam = NULL,
  flmin = 0.01,
  nlam = 20,
  diagonal = TRUE,
  strong = FALSE,
  aa = NULL,
  zz = NULL,
  stand.main = TRUE,
```

```

stand.int = FALSE,
rho = nrow(x),
niter = 100,
sym.eps = 0.001,
step = 1,
maxiter = 2000,
backtrack = 0.2,
tol = 1e-05,
trace = 0
)

```

Arguments

x	A matrix of predictors, where the rows are the samples and the columns are the predictors
y	A vector of observations equal to 0 or 1, where length(y) equals nrow(x)
lamlist	Optional vector of values of lambda (the regularization parameter). L1 penalty param is $\lambda * (1 - \delta)$.
delta	Elastic Net parameter. Squared L2 penalty param is $\lambda * \delta$. Not a tuning parameter: Think of as fixed and small. Default 1e-8.
minlam	Optional minimum value for lambda
maxlam	Optional maximum value for lambda
flmin	Fraction of maxlam; minlam = flmin * maxlam. If computation is slow, try increasing flmin to focus on the sparser part of the path
nlam	Number of values of lambda to be tried
diagonal	Flag specifying whether to include "pure" quadratic terms, $\theta_{jj}X_j^2$, in the model. Default TRUE.
strong	Flag specifying strong hierarchy (TRUE) or weak hierarchy (FALSE). Default FALSE
aa	An <i>optional</i> argument, a list with results from a previous call
zz	An <i>optional</i> argument, a matrix whose columns are products of features, computed by the function compute.interactions.c
stand.main	Should main effects be standardized? Default TRUE
stand.int	Should interactions be standardized? Default FALSE
rho	ADMM parameter: tuning parameter (>0) for ADMM. If there are convergence problems, try decreasing rho. Default n.
niter	ADMM parameter: number of iterations
sym.eps	ADMM parameter Thresholding for symmetrizing with strong=TRUE
step	Stepsize for generalized gradient descent
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for generalized gradient descent
backtrack	Backtrack parameter for generalized gradient descent
tol	Error tolerance parameter for generalized gradient descent
trace	Output option; trace=1 gives verbose output

Value

bp	p by nlam matrix of estimated "positive part" main effects (p=#features)
bn	p by nlam matrix of estimated "negative part" main effects
th	p by p by nlam array of estimated interaction coefficients
obj	nlam values of objective function, one per lambda value
lamlist	Vector of values of lambda used
mx	p-vector of column means of x
sx	p-vector of column standard deviations of x
my	mean of y
mzz	column means of feature product matrix
szz	column standard deviations of feature product matrix

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[hierNet](#), [predict.hierNet](#), [hierNet.cv](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
y=1*(y>0)
fit=hierNet.logistic.path(x,y)
print(fit)
```

hierNet.path

Fit a path of hierNet models- lasso models with interactions

Description

One of the main functions in the hierNet package. Fits a path of hierNet models over different values of the regularization parameter. Calls hierNet, which builds a regression model with hierarchically constrained pairwise interactions. Required inputs are an x matrix of features (the columns are the features) and a y vector of values. Reasonably fast for moderate sized problems (100-200 variables). We are currently working on an alternate algorithm for large scale problems.

Usage

```

hierNet.path(
  x,
  y,
  lamlist = NULL,
  delta = 1e-08,
  minlam = NULL,
  maxlam = NULL,
  nlam = 20,
  flmin = 0.01,
  diagonal = TRUE,
  strong = FALSE,
  aa = NULL,
  zz = NULL,
  stand.main = TRUE,
  stand.int = FALSE,
  rho = nrow(x),
  niter = 100,
  sym.eps = 0.001,
  step = 1,
  maxiter = 2000,
  backtrack = 0.2,
  tol = 1e-05,
  trace = 0
)

```

Arguments

x	A matrix of predictors, where the rows are the samples and the columns are the predictors
y	A vector of observations, where length(y) equals nrow(x)
lamlist	Optional vector of values of lambda (the regularization parameter). L1 penalty param is lambda * (1-delta).
delta	Elastic Net parameter. Squared L2 penalty param is lambda * delta. Not a tuning parameter: Think of as fixed and small. Default 1e-8.
minlam	Optional minimum value for lambda
maxlam	Optional maximum value for lambda
nlam	Number of values of lambda to be tried
flmin	Fraction of maxlam; minlam= flmin*maxlam. If computation is slow, try increasing flmin to focus on the sparser part of the path
diagonal	Flag specifying whether to include "pure" quadratic terms, $\theta_{jj}X_j^2$, in the model. Default TRUE.
strong	Flag specifying strong hierarchy (true) or weak hierarchy (false). Default false
aa	An <i>optional</i> argument, a list with results from a previous call

zz	An <i>optional</i> argument, a matrix whose columns are products of features, computed by the function <code>compute.interactions.c</code>
stand.main	Should main effects be standardized? Default TRUE
stand.int	Should interactions be standardized? Default FALSE
rho	ADMM parameter: tuning parameter (>0) for ADMM. If there are convergence problems, try decreasing rho. Default n.
niter	ADMM parameter: number of iterations
sym.eps	ADMM parameter Thresholding for symmetrizing with <code>strong=TRUE</code>
step	Stepsize for generalized gradient descent
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for generalized gradient descent
backtrack	Backtrack parameter for generalized gradient descent
tol	Error tolerance parameter for generalized gradient descent
trace	Output option; <code>trace=1</code> gives verbose output

Value

bp	p by nlam matrix of estimated "positive part" main effects ($p=\text{\#variables}$)
bn	p by nlam matrix of estimated "negative part" main effects
th	p by p by nlam array of estimated interaction coefficients
obj	nlam values of objective function, one per lambda value
lamlist	Vector of values of lambda used
mx	p-vector of column means of x
sx	p-vector of column standard deviations of x
my	mean of y
mzz	column means of feature product matrix
szz	column standard deviations of feature product matrix

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[hierNet](#), [predict.hierNet](#), [hierNet.cv](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
fit=hierNet.path(x,y)
print(fit)
```

<code>hierNet.varimp</code>	<i>Variable importance for hierNet.</i>
-----------------------------	---

Description

(This is an experimental function.) Calculates a measure of the importance of each variable.

Usage

```
hierNet.varimp(fit, x, y, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>fit</code>	The results of a call to the "hierNet"
<code>x</code>	The training set feature matrix used in call produced "fit"
<code>y</code>	The training set response vector used in call produced "fit"
<code>...</code>	additional arguments (not currently used)

Value

Table of variable importance.

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[hierNet](#), [hierNet.path](#)

Examples

```

set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
newx=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
fit=hierNet(x,y,lam=50)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)

fit=hierNet.path(x,y)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)

```

predict.hierNet	<i>Prediction function for hierNet and hierNet.logistic.</i>
-----------------	--

Description

A function to perform prediction, using an x matrix and the output of the "hierNet" or "hier-net.logistic" function.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'hierNet'
predict(object, newx, newzz = NULL, ...)

```

Arguments

object	The results of a call to the "hierNet" or "hierNet.path" or function. The coefficients that are part of this object will be used for making predictions.
newx	The new x at which predictions should be made. Can be a vector or a matrix (one observation per row).
newzz	Optional matrix of products of columns of newx, computed by compute.interactions.c
...	additional arguments (not currently used)

Value

yhat	Vector of predictions for each observation. For logistic model, these are the estimated probabilities.
------	--

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." Annals of Statistics. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also[hierNet](#), [hierNet.path](#)**Examples**

```

set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
newx=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
fit=hierNet(x,y,lam=50)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)

fit=hierNet.path(x,y)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)

```

predict.hierNet.logistic

Prediction function for hierNet.logistic.

Description

A function to perform prediction, using an x matrix and the output of the "hierNet.logistic" function or "hierNet.logistic.path".

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'hierNet.logistic'
predict(object, newx, newzz = NULL, ...)

```

Arguments

object	The results of a call to the "hierNet.logistic" or "hierNet.logistic.path" or function. The coefficients that are part of this object will be used for making predictions.
newx	The new x at which predictions should be made. Can be a vector or a matrix (one observation per row).
newzz	Optional matrix of products of columns of newx, computed by compute.interactions.c
...	additional arguments (not currently used)

Value

yhat	Matrix of predictions (probabilities), one row per observation
------	--

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[hierNet.logistic](#), [hierNet.logistic.path](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
y=1*(y>0)
newx=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
fit=hierNet.logistic(x,y,lam=5)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)

fit=hierNet.logistic.path(x,y)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)
```

predict.hierNet.path *Prediction function for hierNet.path and hierNet.logistic.path.*

Description

A function to perform prediction, using an x matrix and the output of the "hierNet.path" or "hier-net.logistic.path" functions.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'hierNet.path'
predict(object, newx, newzz = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

object	The results of a call to the "hierNet" or "hierNet.path" or function. The coefficients that are part of this object will be used for making predictions.
newx	The new x at which predictions should be made. Can be a vector or a matrix (one observation per row).
newzz	Optional matrix of products of columns of newx, computed by compute.interactions.c
...	additional arguments (not currently used)

Value

yhat Matrix of predictions, one row per observation. For logistic model, these are the estimated probabilities.

Author(s)

Jacob Bien and Robert Tibshirani

References

Bien, J., Taylor, J., Tibshirani, R., (2013) "A Lasso for Hierarchical Interactions." *Annals of Statistics*. 41(3). 1111-1141.

See Also

[hierNet](#), [hierNet.path](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(12)
x=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
x=scale(x,TRUE,TRUE)
y=x[,1]+2*x[,2]+ x[,1]*x[,2]+3*rnorm(100)
newx=matrix(rnorm(100*10),ncol=10)
fit=hierNet(x,y,lam=50)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)

fit=hierNet.path(x,y)
yhat=predict(fit,newx)
```

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