

Package ‘OutcomeWeights’

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Type Package

Title Outcome Weights of Treatment Effect Estimators

Version 0.1.1

Description Many treatment effect estimators can be written as weighted outcomes. These weights have established use cases like checking covariate balancing via packages like 'cobalt'. This package takes the original estimator objects and outputs these outcome weights. It builds on the general framework of Knaus (2024) <[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2411.11559](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.11559)>. This version is compatible with the 'grf' package and provides an internal implementation of Double Machine Learning.

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Encoding UTF-8

URL <https://github.com/MCKnaus/OutcomeWeights>

BugReports <https://github.com/MCKnaus/OutcomeWeights/issues>

Imports ggplot2, grf, methods

LinkingTo Rcpp, RcppArmadillo

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Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0)

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dml_with_smoother	<i>Double ML estimators with outcome smoothers</i>
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Description

Existing Double ML implementations are too general to easily extract smoother matrices required to be compatible with the `get_forest_weights()` method. This motivates yet another Double ML implementation.

Usage

```
dml_with_smoother(
  Y,
  D,
  X,
  Z = NULL,
  estimators = c("PLR", "PLR_IV", "AIPW_ATE", "Wald_AIPW"),
  smoother = "honest_forest",
  n_cf_folds = 5,
  n_reps = 1,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

Y	Numeric vector containing the outcome variable.
D	Optional binary treatment variable.
X	Covariate matrix with N rows and p columns.
Z	Optional binary instrumental variable.

estimators	String (vector) indicating which estimators should be run. Current menu: <code>c("PLR","PLR_IV","AIPW_AT</code>
smoother	Indicate which smoother to be used for nuisance parameter estimation. Currently only available option "honest_forest" from the grf package.
n_cf_folds	Number of cross-fitting folds. Default is 5.
n_reps	Number of repetitions of cross-fitting. Default is 1.
...	Options to be passed to smoothers.

Value

A list with three entries:

- `results`: a list storing the results, influence functions, and score functions of each estimator
- `NuPa.hat`: a list storing the estimated nuisance parameters and the outcome smoother matrices

References

Chernozhukov, V., Chetverikov, D., Demirer, M., Duflo, E., Hansen, C., Newey, W., & Robins, J. (2018). Double/debiased machine learning for treatment and structural parameters. *The Econometrics Journal*, 21(1), C1-C68.

Knaus, M. C. (2024). Treatment effect estimators as weighted outcomes, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.11559>.

Examples

```
# Sample from DGP borrowed from grf documentation
n = 200
p = 5
X = matrix(rbinom(n * p, 1, 0.5), n, p)
Z = rbinom(n, 1, 0.5)
Q = rbinom(n, 1, 0.5)
W = Q * Z
tau = X[, 1] / 2
Y = rowSums(X[, 1:3]) + tau * W + Q + rnorm(n)

# Run outcome regression and extract smoother matrix
# Run DML and look at results
dml = dml_with_smoother(Y,W,X,Z)
results_dml = summary(dml)
plot(dml)

# Get weights
omega_dml = get_outcome_weights(dml)

# Observe that they perfectly replicate the original estimates
all.equal(as.numeric(omega_dml$omega %*% Y),
          as.numeric(as.numeric(results_dml[,1])))

# The weights can then be passed to the cobalt package for example.
```

get_outcome_weights *Outcome weights method*

Description

This is a generic method for getting outcome weights. It calculates the outcome weights for objects created by other packages. See `get_outcome_weight.<compatible_fct>` in the package documentation for compatible functions.

Usage

```
get_outcome_weights(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object, obtained from other packages.
...	Additional arguments specific to object class implementations. See the documentation which object requires which additional arguments.

Value

A list of at least these components:

- `omega`: matrix (number of point estimates x number of estimation units) of outcome weights
- `treat`: the treatment indicator to make it compatible with the `cobalt` package

References

Knaus, M. C. (2024). Treatment effect estimators as weighted outcomes, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.11559>.

get_outcome_weights.causal_forest
Outcome weights for the `causal_forest` function

Description

Post-estimation command to extract outcome weights for causal forest implemented via the `causal_forest` function from the **grf** package.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'causal_forest'
get_outcome_weights(
  object,
  ...,
  S,
  newdata = NULL,
  S.tau = NULL,
  target = "CATE",
  checks = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class <code>causal_forest</code> , i.e. the result of running <code>causal_forest</code> .
...	Pass potentially generic <code>get_outcome_weights</code> options.
S	A smoother matrix reproducing the outcome predictions used in building the <code>instrumental_forest</code> . Obtained by calling <code>get_forest_weights()</code> for the <code>regression_forest</code> object producing the outcome predictions.
newdata	Corresponds to <code>newdata</code> option in <code>predict.causal_forest</code> . If <code>NULL</code> , out-of-bag outcome weights, otherwise for those for the provided test data returned.
S.tau	Required if <code>target != "CATE"</code> , then <code>S.tau</code> is the CATE smoother obtained from running <code>get_outcome_weights()</code> with <code>target == "CATE"</code> .
target	Target parameter for which outcome weights should be extracted. Currently <code>c("CATE", "ATE")</code> implemented.
checks	Default <code>TRUE</code> checks whether weights numerically replicate original estimates. Only set <code>FALSE</code> if you know what you are doing and need to save computation time.

Value

`get_outcome_weights` object with `omega` containing weights and `treat` the treatment

References

Athey, S., Tibshirani, J., & Wager, S. (2019). Generalized random forest. *The Annals of Statistics*, 47(2), 1148-1178.

Knaus, M. C. (2024). Treatment effect estimators as weighted outcomes, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.11559>.

Examples

```
# Sample from DGP borrowed from grf documentation
n = 500
p = 10
X = matrix(rnorm(n * p), n, p)
W = rbinom(n, 1, 0.5)
```

```

Y = pmax(X[, 1], 0) * W + X[, 2] + pmin(X[, 3], 0) + rnorm(n)

# Run outcome regression and extract smoother matrix
forest.Y = grf::regression_forest(X, Y)
Y.hat = predict(forest.Y)$predictions
outcome_smoother = grf::get_forest_weights(forest.Y)

# Run causal forest with external Y.hats
c.forest = grf::causal_forest(X, Y, W, Y.hat = Y.hat)

# Predict on out-of-bag training samples.
cate.oob = predict(c.forest)$predictions

# Predict using the forest.
X.test = matrix(0, 101, p)
X.test[, 1] = seq(-2, 2, length.out = 101)
cate.test = predict(c.forest, X.test)$predictions

# Calculate outcome weights
omega_oob = get_outcome_weights(c.forest, S = outcome_smoother)
omega_test = get_outcome_weights(c.forest, S = outcome_smoother, newdata = X.test)

# Observe that they perfectly replicate the original CATEs
all.equal(as.numeric(omega_oob$omega %>% Y),
          as.numeric(cate.oob))
all.equal(as.numeric(omega_test$omega %>% Y),
          as.numeric(cate.test))

# Also the ATE estimates are perfectly replicated
omega_ate = get_outcome_weights(c.forest, target = "ATE",
                               S = outcome_smoother,
                               S.tau = omega_oob$omega)
all.equal(as.numeric(omega_ate$omega %>% Y),
          as.numeric(grf::average_treatment_effect(c.forest, target.sample = "all")[1]))

# The omega weights can be plugged into balancing packages like cobalt

```

```
get_outcome_weights.dml_with_smoother
```

Outcome weights for the [dml_with_smoother](#) function

Description

Post-estimation command to extract outcome weights for double ML run with an outcome smoother.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'dml_with_smoother'
get_outcome_weights(object, ..., all_reps = FALSE)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class <code>dml_with_smoother</code> , i.e. the result of running <code>dml_with_smoother</code> .
...	Pass potentially generic <code>get_outcome_weights</code> options.
all_reps	If TRUE, outcomes weights of each repetitions passed. Default FALSE.

Value

- If `all_reps == FALSE`: `get_outcome_weights` object
- If `all_reps == TRUE`: additionally list `omega_all_reps`: A list containing the outcome weights of each repetition.

References

Knaus, M. C. (2024). Treatment effect estimators as weighted outcomes, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.11559>.

get_outcome_weights.instrumental_forest
Outcome weights for the `instrumental_forest` function

Description

Post-estimation command to extract outcome weights for instrumental forest implemented via the `instrumental_forest` function from the **grf** package.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'instrumental_forest'
get_outcome_weights(object, ..., S, newdata = NULL, checks = TRUE)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class <code>instrumental_forest</code> , i.e. the result of running <code>instrumental_forest</code> .
...	Pass potentially generic <code>get_outcome_weights</code> options.
S	A smoother matrix reproducing the outcome predictions used in building the <code>instrumental_forest</code> . Obtained by calling <code>get_forest_weights()</code> for the <code>regression_forest</code> object producing the outcome predictions.
newdata	Corresponds to <code>newdata</code> option in <code>predict.instrumental_forest</code> . If NULL, out-of-bag outcome weights, otherwise for those for the provided test data returned.
checks	Default TRUE checks whether weights numerically replicate original estimates. Only set FALSE if you know what you are doing and want to save computation time.

Value

`get_outcome_weights` object with `omega` containing weights and `treat` the treatment

References

Athey, S., Tibshirani, J., & Wager, S. (2019). Generalized random forest. *The Annals of Statistics*, 47(2), 1148-1178.

Knaus, M. C. (2024). Treatment effect estimators as weighted outcomes, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.11559>.

Examples

```
# Sample from DGP borrowed from grf documentation
n = 2000
p = 5
X = matrix(rbinom(n * p, 1, 0.5), n, p)
Z = rbinom(n, 1, 0.5)
Q = rbinom(n, 1, 0.5)
W = Q * Z
tau = X[, 1] / 2
Y = rowSums(X[, 1:3]) + tau * W + Q + rnorm(n)

# Run outcome regression and extract smoother matrix
forest.Y = grf::regression_forest(X, Y)
Y.hat = predict(forest.Y)$predictions
outcome_smoother = grf::get_forest_weights(forest.Y)

# Run instrumental forest with external Y.hats
iv.forest = grf::instrumental_forest(X, Y, W, Z, Y.hat = Y.hat)

# Predict on out-of-bag training samples.
iv.pred = predict(iv.forest)$predictions

omega_if = get_outcome_weights(iv.forest, S = outcome_smoother)

# Observe that they perfectly replicate the original CLATEs
all.equal(as.numeric(omega_if$omega %*% Y),
          as.numeric(iv.pred))
```

NuPa_honest_forest

Nuisance parameter estimation via honest random forest

Description

This function estimates different nuisance parameters using the honest random forest implementation of the 'grf' package

Usage

```
NuPa_honest_forest(
  NuPa = c("Y.hat", "Y.hat.d", "Y.hat.z", "D.hat", "D.hat.z", "Z.hat"),
  X,
  Y = NULL,
  D = NULL,
  Z = NULL,
  n_cf_folds = 5,
  n_reps = 1,
  cluster = NULL,
  progress = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

NuPa	String vector specifying the nuisance parameters to be estimated. Currently supported: <code>c("Y.hat", "Y.hat.d", "Y.hat.z", "D.hat", "D.hat.z", "Z.hat")</code>
X	Covariate matrix with N rows and p columns.
Y	Optional numeric vector containing the outcome variable.
D	Optional binary treatment variable.
Z	Optional binary instrumental variable.
n_cf_folds	Number of cross-fitting folds. Default is 5.
n_reps	Number of repetitions of cross-fitting. Default is 1.
cluster	Optional vector of cluster variable if cross-fitting should account for clusters.
progress	If TRUE, progress of nuisance parameter estimation reported.
...	Options passed to the <code>regression_forest</code> .

Value

List of two lists.

- `predictions` contains the requested nuisance parameters
- `smoothers` contains the smoother matrices of requested outcome nuisance parameters
- `cf_mat` Array of dimension `n_reps x N x n_cf_folds` storing indicators representing the folds used in estimation.

References

Wager, S., & Athey, S. (2018). Estimation and inference of heterogeneous treatment effects using random forests. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 113(523), 1228-1242.

pive_weight_maker *Outcome weights maker for pseudo-IV estimators.*

Description

This is a generic function taking pseudo-instrument, pseudo-treatment and the transformation matrix as inputs and returning outcome weights

Usage

```
pive_weight_maker(Z.tilde, D.tilde, T_mat)
```

Arguments

Z.tilde	Numeric vector of pseudo-instrument outcomes.
D.tilde	Numeric vector of pseudo-treatment.
T_mat	Transformation matrix

Value

A vector of outcome weights.

References

Knaus, M. C. (2024). Treatment effect estimators as weighted outcomes, soon on 'arXiv'.

plot.dml_with_smoother
plot method for class [dml_with_smoother](#)

Description

plot method for class [dml_with_smoother](#)

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'dml_with_smoother'
plot(x, ..., alpha = 0.05, contrast = FALSE)
```

Arguments

x	Object of class dml_with_smoother .
...	Pass generic plot options.
alpha	Significance level for confidence intervals (default 0.05).
contrast	Shows the differences between the coefficients.

Value

ggplot with point estimates and confidence intervals.

prep_cf_mat	<i>Creates matrix of binary cross-fitting fold indicators (N x # cross-folds)</i>
-------------	---

Description

Creates matrix of binary cross-fitting fold indicators (N x # cross-folds)

Usage

```
prep_cf_mat(n, cf, w_mat = NULL, cl = NULL)
```

Arguments

n	Number of observations.
cf	Number of cross-fitting folds.
w_mat	Optional logical matrix of treatment indicators (N x T+1). If specified, cross-fitting folds will preserve the treatment ratios from full sample.
cl	Optional vector of cluster variable if cross-fitting should account for clusters.

Value

Logical matrix of cross-fitting folds (N x # folds).

standardized_mean_differences	<i>Calls C++ implementation to calculate standardized mean differences.</i>
-------------------------------	---

Description

Calculates standardized mean differences between treated and controls and towards target means for an outcome weights matrix with potentially many rows like for CATEs.

Usage

```
standardized_mean_differences(X, treat, omega, target = NULL)
```

Arguments

X	Covariate matrix with N rows and p columns.
treat	Binary treatment variable.
omega	Outcome weights matrix with dimension number of weight vectors for which balancing should be checked x number of training units.
target	Optional matrix with dimension number of weight vectors for which balancing should be checked x p indicating the target values the covariates should be balanced towards. If NULL, average of X used as target of ATE.

Value

3D-array of dimension $p \times 6 \times$ number of weight vectors for which balancing should be checked where the second dimension provides the following quantities:

- "Mean 0": The weighted control mean
- "Mean 1": The weighted treated mean
- "SMD balancing": Standardized mean differences for covariate balancing $(\text{Mean 1} - \text{Mean 0}) / \text{sd}(X)$
- "SMD targeting 0": Standardized mean difference to assess targeting of control $(\text{Mean 0} - \text{target}) / \text{sd}(X)$
- "SMD targeting 1": Standardized mean difference to assess targeting of treated $(\text{Mean 1} - \text{target}) / \text{sd}(X)$

References

Rosenbaum, P. R., & Rubin, D. B. (1984). Reducing bias in observational studies using subclassification on the propensity score. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 79 (387), 516–524.

summary.dml_with_smoother

summary method for class [dml_with_smoother](#)

Description

summary method for class [dml_with_smoother](#)

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'dml_with_smoother'
summary(object, contrast = FALSE, quiet = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

object	Object of class dml_with_smoother .
contrast	Tests the differences between the coefficients.
quiet	If TRUE, results are passed but not printed.
...	further arguments passed to printCoefmat

Value

Invisible matrix with estimator(s) in the rows and c("Estimate","SE","t","p") in the columns.

```
summary.get_outcome_weights
      summary method for class outcome_weights
```

Description

Calculates several summary measures of potentially many outcome weights.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'get_outcome_weights'
summary(object, quiet = FALSE, digits = 4, epsilon = 1e-04, ...)
```

Arguments

object	get_outcome_weights object.
quiet	If TRUE, results are passed but not printed.
digits	Number of digits to be displayed. Default 4.
epsilon	Threshold below which in absolute values non-zero but small values should be displayed as < ...
...	further arguments passed to printCoefmat

Value

3D-array of dimension

- c("Control","Treated") x
- number of point estimates x
- c("Minimum weight","Maximum weight","% Negative","Sum largest 10%","Sum of weights","Sum of absolute weights")

```
summary.standardized_mean_differences  
summary method for class standardized\_mean\_differences
```

Description

Calls a C++ function to quickly summarize potentially many standardized mean differences.

Usage

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

Arguments

object	Object of class standardized_mean_differences .
...	further arguments passed to summary method.

Value

3D-array of dimension

- c("Maximum absolute SMD", "Mean absolute SMD", "Median absolute SMD", / % of absolute SMD > 20", "# / % of absolute SMD > 10", "# / % of absolute SMD > 5") x
- c("Balancing", "Targeting") x
- number of weight vectors for which balancing should be checked

References

Rosenbaum, P. R., & Rubin, D. B. (1984). Reducing bias in observational studies using subclassification on the propensity score. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 79 (387), 516–524.

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