

Package ‘ada’

May 7, 2026

Version 2.0-5.1

Date 2016-04-12

Title The R Package Ada for Stochastic Boosting

Depends R(>= 2.10),rpart

Description Performs discrete, real, and gentle boost under both exponential and logistic loss on a given data set. The package ada provides a straightforward, well-documented, and broad boosting routine for classification, ideally suited for small to moderate-sized data sets.

License GPL

NeedsCompilation no

Author Mark Culp [aut, cre],
Kjell Johnson [aut],
George Michailidis [aut]

Maintainer Mark Culp <mvculp@mail.wvu.edu>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-02-17 07:33:14 UTC

Contents

ada	2
addtest	5
pairs.ada	6
plot.ada	7
predict.ada	8
print.ada	9
soldat	10
summary.ada	11
update.ada	11

Index [13](#)

ada

*Fitting Stochastic Boosting Models***Description**

'ada' is used to fit a variety stochastic boosting models for a binary response as described in *Additive Logistic Regression: A Statistical View of Boosting* by Friedman, et al. (2000).

Usage

```
ada(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
ada(x, y, test.x, test.y=NULL, loss=c("exponential", "logistic"),
     type=c("discrete", "real", "gentle"), iter=50, nu=0.1, bag.frac=0.5,
     model.coef=TRUE, bag.shift=FALSE, max.iter=20, delta=10^(-10),
     verbose=FALSE, ..., na.action=na.rpart)

## S3 method for class 'formula'
ada(formula, data, ..., subset, na.action=na.rpart)
```

Arguments

x	matrix of descriptors.
y	vector of responses. 'y' may have only two unique values.
test.x	testing matrix of descriptors (optional)
test.y	vector of testing responses (optional)
loss	loss="exponential", "ada", "e" or any variation corresponds to the default boosting under exponential loss. loss="logistic", "l2", "l1" provides boosting under logistic loss.
type	type of boosting algorithm to perform. "discrete" performs discrete Boosting (default). "real" performs Real Boost. "gentle" performs Gentle Boost.
iter	number of boosting iterations to perform. Default = 50.
nu	shrinkage parameter for boosting, default taken as 1.
bag.frac	sampling fraction for samples taken out-of-bag. This allows one to use random permutation which improves performance.
model.coef	flag to use stageweights in boosting. If FALSE then the procedure corresponds to epsilon-boosting.
bag.shift	flag to determine whether the stageweights should go to one as nu goes to zero. This only makes sense if bag.frac is small. The rationale behind this parameter is discussed in (Culp et al., 2006).
max.iter	number of iterations to perform in the newton step to determine the coefficient.
delta	tolerance for convergence of the newton step to determine the coefficient.

verbose	print the number of iterations necessary for convergence of a coefficient.
formula	a symbolic description of the model to be fit.
data	an optional data frame containing the variables in the model.
subset	an optional vector specifying a subset of observations to be used in the fitting process.
na.action	a function that indicates how to process 'NA' values. Default=na.rpart.
...	arguments passed to <code>rpart.control</code> . For stumps, use <code>rpart.control(maxdepth=1,cp=-1,minsplit=0)</code> . <code>maxdepth</code> controls the depth of trees, and <code>cp</code> controls the complexity of trees. The priors should also be fixed through the <code>parms</code> argument as discussed in the second reference.

Details

This function directly follows the algorithms listed in “*Additive Logistic Regression: A Statistical View of Boosting*”.

When using usage ‘`ada(x,y)`’: `x` data can take the form `data.frame` or `as.matrix`. `y` data can take form `data.frame`, `as.factor`, `as.matrix`, `as.array`, or `as.table`. Missing values must be removed from the data prior to execution.

When using usage ‘`ada(y~.)`’: data must be in a data frame. Response can have factor or numeric values. Missing values can be present in the descriptor data, whenever `na.action` is set to any option other than `na.pass`.

After the model is fit, ‘`ada`’ prints a summary of the function call, the method used for boosting, the number of iterations, the final confusion matrix (observed classification vs predicted classification; labels for classes are same as in response), the error for the training set, and testing, training, and kappa estimates of the appropriate number of iterations.

A summary of this information can also be obtained with the command ‘`print(x)`’.

Corresponding functions (Use help with `summary.ada`, `predict.ada`, ... `varplot` for additional information on these commands):

`summary` : function to print a summary of the original function call, method used for boosting, number of iterations, final confusion matrix, accuracy, and kappa statistic (a measure of agreement between the observed classification and predicted classification). ‘`summary`’ can be used for training, testing, or validation data.

`predict` : function to predict the response for any data set (train, test, or validation).

`plot` : function to plot performance of the algorithm across boosting iterations. Default plot is iteration number (`x`-axis) versus prediction error (`y`-axis) for the data set used to build the model. Function can also simultaneously produce an error plot for an external test set and a kappa plot for training and test sets.

`pairs` : function to produce pairwise plots of descriptors. Descriptors are arranged by decreasing frequency of selection by boosting (upper left = most frequently chosen). The color of the marker in the plot represents class membership; the Size of the marker represents predicted class probability. The larger the marker, the higher the probability of classification.

`varplot` : plot of variables ordered by the variable importance measure (based on improvement).

`addtest` : add a testing data set to the `ada` object, therefore the testing errors only have to be computed once.

`update` : add more trees to the `ada` object.

Value

<code>model</code>	The following items are the different components created by the algorithms: <code>trees</code> : ensemble of rpart trees used to fit the model <code>alpha</code> : the weights of the trees used in the final aggregate model (AdaBoost only; see references for more information) <code>F</code> : <code>F[[1]]</code> corresponds to the training sum, <code>F[[2]]</code> , ... corresponds to testing sums. <code>errs</code> : matrix of errs, training, kappa, testing 1, kappa 1, ... <code>lw</code> : last weights calculated, used by update routine
<code>fit</code>	The predicted classification for each observation in the original level of the response.
<code>call</code>	The function call.
<code>nu</code>	shrinkage parameter
<code>type</code>	The type of adaboost performed: 'discrete', 'real', 'logit', and 'gentle'.
<code>confusion</code>	The confusion matrix (True value vs. Predicted value) for the training data.
<code>iter</code>	The number of boosting iterations that were performed.
<code>actual</code>	The original response vector.

Warnings

For LogitBoost and Gentle Boost, under certain circumstances, the methods will fail to classify the data into more than one category. If this occurs, try modifying the rpart.control options such as 'minsplit', 'cp', and 'maxdepth'.

'ada' does not currently handle multiclass problems. However, there is an example in (Culp et al., 2006) that shows how to use this code in that setting. Plots and other functions are not set up for this analysis.

Author(s)

Mark Culp, University of Michigan Kjell Johnson, Pfizer, Inc. George Michailidis, University of Michigan

Special thanks goes to: Zhiguang Qian, Georgia Tech University Greg Warnes, Pfizer, Inc.

References

- Friedman, J. (1999). *Greedy Function Approximation: A Gradient Boosting Machine*. Technical Report, Department of Statistics, Stanford University.
- Friedman, J., Hastie, T., and Tibshirani, R. (2000). *Additive Logistic Regression: A statistical view of boosting*. *Annals of Statistics*, 28(2), 337-374.
- Friedman, J. (2002). *Stochastic Gradient Boosting*. *Coputational Statistics & Data Analysis* 38.
- Culp, M., Johnson, K., Michailidis, G. (2006). *ada: an R Package for Stochastic Boosting* *Journal of Statistical Software*, 16.

See Also

[print.ada](#), [summary.ada](#), [predict.ada](#) [plot.ada](#), [pairs.ada](#), [update.ada](#) [addtest](#)

Examples

```

## fit discrete ada boost to a simple example
data(iris)
##drop setosa
iris[iris$Species!="setosa",]->iris
##set up testing and training data (60% for training)
n<-dim(iris)[1]
trind<-sample(1:n,floor(.6*n),FALSE)
teind<-setdiff(1:n,trind)
iris[,5]<- as.factor((levels(iris[,5])[2:3])[as.numeric(iris[,5])-1])
##fit 8-split trees
gdis<-ada(Species~.,data=iris[trind,],iter=20,nu=1,type="discrete")
##add testing data set
gdis=addtest(gdis,iris[teind,-5],iris[teind,5])
##plot gdis
plot(gdis,TRUE,TRUE)
##variable selection plot
varplot(gdis)
##pairwise plot
pairs(gdis,iris[trind,-5],maxvar=2)

##for many more examples refer to reference (Culp et al., 2006)

```

addtest

Add a test set to ada

Description

addtest updates the ada object to have additional testing errors and testing kappa accuracies for each iteration.

Usage

```
addtest(x, test.x, test.y, ...)
```

Arguments

x	object generated by the function ada.
test.x	new x data
test.y	the true labeling for this testing data
...	other arguments not used by this function.

Value

updated ada object.

See Also

[ada](#), [update.ada](#)

Description

This command produces pairwise plots of the data. The data in the upper panel of pairwise plots colors the observations by observed class membership (if membership is provided). The lower panel of pairwise plots colors the observations by predicted classes. In addition, the plotting symbol is scaled by the the class probability estimate from by adaboost.

The varplot command produces a variable importance plot using the improve criteria given in the reference (Hastie et al.,2001, pg332). This is a rather standard measure for determining variable importance.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ada'
pairs(x, train.data = NULL, vars = NULL, maxvar = 10,
      test.x = NULL, test.y = NULL,
      test.only = FALSE,col=c(2,4),pch=c(1,2), ...)

varplot(x, plot.it = TRUE, type = c("none","scores"),max.var.show=30, ...)
```

Arguments

x	object generated by 'ada'.
train.data	the 'data.frame' of the orgianal data used to train the classifier. The names of this 'data.frame' must be the same as the variable names as the object generated by 'ada'. x.data is used by both the 'pairs' command. Default = NULL.
vars	a vector of variables to include for this plot. The variable number must correspond to a specific column in 'x'. For example, vars=c(1,2), generates a plot for the first two columns for 'x.data'. Note: vars is only used for the 'pairs' command. Default = NULL.
maxvar	the maximum number of variables for the pairwise plot. If maxvar = 5, then 'varplot' chooses the the five most important variables and places these in descending order in the plot. Maxvar is only used for the 'pairs' command. Default = 10.
test.x	an option to plot pairwise descriptors for a test data set. 'test.data' should be of type 'data.frame'. 'test.data' is only used for the 'pairs' command. Default = NULL.
test.y	the corresponding response for the test data set. If 'test.response' is not specified, then the color of the symbols for the test data in the pairwise plots are black; training data are colored by class. 'test.response' is only used for the 'pairs' command. Default = NULL.
test.only	provides pairwise plots for test data only (test.only = TRUE). Default = FALSE. If 'test.response' is not specified, then 'test.only' is ignored. 'test.only' is only used for the 'pairs' command. Default = NULL.

col	color for plot symbols one for each class. Default col=c(2,4) (i.e. red and blue)
pch	pch for plot set two symbols. Default pch=c(1,2) (i.e. circle and triangle)
...	Arguments to be passed into 'pairs.default'. Do not set the upper and lower panel. This is only used for the pairs command.
plot.it	provides a plot of frequencies for each variable (plot.it = TRUE). 'plot.it' is only used for the 'varplot' command. Default = NULL.
type	if type="none" then nothing is returned. Default = "none". If type="scores", the frequencies are returned.
max.var.show	if plot.it is TRUE then this controls the number of variables shown for the plot

Details

The 'varplot' command provides a sense of variable importance—the more frequently a variable is selected for boosting, the more likely the variable contains useful information for classification. Pairwise interactions of important variables can then be visualized using 'varplot'. Note: The 'pairs' command calls the 'varplot' command.

Value

scores If type="scores" then the frequencies for each variable is returned by the varplot command.

Note

This plot was designed as tool to use with adaboost. Please send any comments or suggestions for improvement to the authors.

References

Culp, M., Johnson, K., Michailidis, G. (200X). *ada: an R Package for Boosting* Journal of Statistical Software, (XX)XX

plot.ada

Plots for Ada

Description

This function produces plots of the overall classification error at each boosting iteration for both the training and test sets. In addition, the function can produce plots of the measure of agreement (kappa) between the predicted classification and actual classification at each boosting iteration for both the training and test sets.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ada'
plot(x, kappa = FALSE, test=FALSE, cols= rainbow(dim(x$model$errors)[2]+1), tflag=TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	the object created by ada.
kappa	option for a plot of Kappa values at each iteration. kappa = TRUE produces a plot of Kappa values. Default = FALSE.
test	option for a plot of testing error values at each iteration. test=TRUE produces a plot of test values. Default=FALSE.
cols	colors used for lines to be plotted
tflag	inicates whether to include the tilte in the plot or not
...	additional layout command parameter (see layout).

Value

No value returned

See Also

[ada](#)

predict.ada

Predict a data set using Ada

Description

predict classifies a new set of observations from a previously built classifier. This function will provide either a vector of new classes, class probability estimates, or both.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ada'
predict(object, newdata, type = c("vector", "probs", "both", "F"), n.iter=NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

object	object generated by ada.
newdata	new data set to predict. This data set must be of type 'data.frame' and prediction data set is required for this approach.
type	choice for preditions. type="vector" returns the default class labels. type="prob" returns the probability class estimates. type="both" returns both the default class labels and probability class estimates. type="F" returns the ensamble average, where the class label is sign(F). This is mainly usefull for the multiclass case.
n.iter	number of iterations to consider for the prediction. By default this is iter from the ada call (n.iter< iter)
...	other arguments not used by this function.

Details

This function was modeled after `predict.rpart`. Furthermore, `predict.rpart` will be invoked to handle predictions by each tree in the ensemble.

Value

<code>fit</code>	a vector of fitted responses. Fit will be returned if <code>type="vector"</code> .
<code>probs</code>	a matrix of class probability estimates. The first column corresponds to the first label in the 'levels' of the response. The second column corresponds to the second label in the 'levels' of the response. Probs are returned whenever <code>type="probs"</code> .
<code>both</code>	returns both the vector of fitted responses and class probability estimates. The first element returns the fitted responses and will be labeled as 'class'. The second element returns the class probability estimates and will be labeled as 'probs'.
<code>F</code>	this is used in the multiclass case when one uses the package to perform 1 v.s. all.

Note

This function is invoked by the `summary`, `pairs`, and `plot` S3 generics invoked with an `ada` object. If an error occurs in one of the above commands then try using this command directly to track possible errors. Also, the `newdata` data set must be of type 'data.frame' when invoking `summary`, `pairs`, and `plot`.

See Also

[ada.default](#), [summary.ada](#), [print.ada](#), [plot.ada](#), [pairs.ada](#), [update.ada](#), [addtest](#)

print.ada

Model Information for Ada

Description

`print` lists the model information and final confusion matrix for submitted data.

Usage

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

Arguments

<code>x</code>	object generated by the function <code>ada</code> .
<code>...</code>	other arguments not used by this function.

Details

`print` produces a summary of the original function call, method used for boosting, number of iterations, final confusion matrix, error from data used to build the model, and estimates of M .

Note: any object of class `ada` invokes `print`, when printed to the screen.

Value

No value returned.

See Also

[ada.default](#), [summary.ada](#), [predict.ada](#), [plot.ada](#), [pairs.ada](#), [update.ada](#), [addtest](#)

soldat

Solubility Data

Description

A data set that contains information about compounds used in drug discovery. Specifically, this data set consists of 5631 compounds on which an in-house solubility screen (ability of a compound to dissolve in a water/solvent mixture) was performed.

Based on this screen, compounds were categorized as either insoluble ($n=3493$) or soluble ($n=2138$). Then, for each compound, 72 continuous, noisy structural descriptors were computed.

Usage

```
data(soldat)
```

Format

A data frame with 5631 observations on the following 73 variables. Some rows have missing data.

Examples

```
data(soldat)
```

summary.ada	<i>Summary of model fit for arbitrary data (test, validation, or training)</i>
-------------	--

Description

summary lists the model information for fitted model and final confusion matrix.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ada'  
summary(object, n.iter=NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

object	object generated by 'ada'.
n.iter	specific iteration to obtain the training and testing information at.
...	other arguments not used by this function.

Details

summary produces a summary of the original function call, method used for boosting for a specific iteration, accuracy, and kappa statistic (a measure of agreement between the observed classification and predicted classification) for the training data.

In addition, if any other data set (i.e. test or validation) has been incorporated to the ada object (see addtest), summary produces analogous information.

See Also

[ada](#), [predict.ada](#), [plot.ada](#), [pairs.ada](#)

update.ada	<i>Add more trees to an ada object</i>
------------	--

Description

ada.update updates the ada object to have additional trees given a new number of iterations.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ada'  
update(object, x, y, test.x, test.y = NULL, n.iter, ...)
```

Arguments

object	object generated by the function ada.
x	x training data
y	training response
test.x	x testing data (optional)
test.y	the true labeling for this testing data (optional)
n.iter	new number of iterations, must be provided and n.iter>iter
...	other arguments not used by this function.

Value

updated ada object.

See Also

[ada.default](#), [summary.ada](#), [predict.ada](#), [plot.ada](#), [pairs.ada](#)

Index

* **classes**

ada, 2

* **datasets**

soldat, 10

* **methods**

ada, 2

addtest, 5

pairs.ada, 6

plot.ada, 7

predict.ada, 8

print.ada, 9

summary.ada, 11

update.ada, 11

* **models**

ada, 2

ada, 2, 5, 8, 11

ada.default, 9, 10, 12

addtest, 4, 5, 9, 10

pairs.ada, 4, 6, 9–12

plot.ada, 4, 7, 9–12

predict.ada, 4, 8, 10–12

print.ada, 4, 9, 9

soldat, 10

summary.ada, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12

update.ada, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11

varplot (pairs.ada), 6