Package ‘EnsembleBase’

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Type Package
Title Extensible Package for Parallel, Batch Training of Base Learners for Ensemble Modeling
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Description Extensible S4 classes and methods for batch training of regression and classification algorithms such as Random Forest, Gradient Boosting Machine, Neural Network, Support Vector Machines, and K-Nearest Neighbors. These algorithms constitute a set of 'base learners', which can subsequently be combined together to form ensemble predictions. This package provides cross-validation wrappers to allow for downstream application of ensemble integration techniques, including best-error selection. All base learner estimation objects are retained, allowing for repeated prediction calls without the need for re-training. For large problems, an option is provided to save estimation objects to disk, along with prediction methods that utilize these objects. This allows users to train and predict with large ensembles of base learners without being constrained by system RAM.
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Description

These base learner configuration objects contain tuning parameters needed for training base learner algorithms.

Objects from the Class

These objects are typically constructed via calls to `make.configs` and `make.instances`.

Slots

For KNN.Regression.Config:

Object of class "character", defining the weighting function applied to neighbors as a function of distance from target point. Options include "rectangular", "epanechnikov", "triweight", and "gaussian".

`kernel`: Object of class "numeric", defining the number of nearest neighbors to include in prediction for each target point. For NNET.Regression.Config:

`decay`: Object of class "numeric", defining the weight decay parameter.

`size`: Object of class "numeric", defining the number of hidden-layer neurons.

`maxit`: Object of class "numeric", defining the maximum number of iterations in the training. For RF.Regression.Config:

`ntree`: Object of class "numeric", defining the number of trees in the random forest.
nodesize: Object of class "numeric", defining the minimum size of terminal nodes.
mtry.mult: Object of class "numeric", defining the multiplier of the default value for mtry parameter in the randomForest function call. For SVM.Regression.Config:
cost: Object of class "numeric", defining the cost of constraint violation.
epsilon: Object of class "numeric", the parameter of insensitive-loss function.
kernel: Object of class "character", the kernel used in SVM training and prediction. Options include "linear", "polynomial", "radial", and "sigmoid". For GBM.Regression.Config:
n.trees: Object of class "numeric", defining the number of trees to fit.
interaction.depth: Object of class "numeric", defining the maximum depth of variable interactions.
codeshrinkage: Object of class "numeric", defining the shrinkage parameter applied to each tree in expansion.
bag.fraction: Object of class "numeric", defining the fraction of training set observations randomly selected to propose the next tree in the expansion.

Extends


Methods

BaseLearner.Fit signature(object = "KNN.Regression.Config"): ...
BaseLearner.Fit signature(object = "NNET.Regression.Config"): ...
BaseLearner.Fit signature(object = "RF.Regression.Config"): ...
BaseLearner.Fit signature(object = "SVM.Regression.Config"): ...
BaseLearner.Fit signature(object = "GBM.Regression.Config"): ...

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

make.configs, make.instances, make.configs.knn.regression, make.configs.nnet.regression, make.configs.rf.regression, make.configs.svm.regression, make.configs.gbm.regression, "Regression.Config", "BaseLearner.Config"
ALL.Regression.FitObj-class

Classes "KNN.Regression.FitObj", "NNET.Regression.FitObj",
"RF.Regression.FitObj", "SVM.Regression.FitObj",
"GBM.Regression.FitObj"

Description

Objects returned by base learner training functions.

Objects from the Class

Objects can be created by calls of the form new("KNN.Regression.FitObj", ...).

Slots

All classes inherit slots config, est, and pred from "Regression.FitObj". Some base learners
may have additional slots as described below.
For KNN.Regression.FitObj:
  formula: Object of class "formula", copy of same argument from training call BaseLearner.Fit.
data: Object of class "data.frame", copy of same argument from training call BaseLearner.Fit.
For NNET.Regression.FitObj:
y.range: Object of class "numeric", range of response variable in training data. This is used for
  scaling of data during prediction so that it falls between 0 and 1 for regression tasks.
y.min: Object of class "numeric", minimum of response variable in training data. This is used for
  scaling of data during prediction so that it falls between 0 and 1 for regression tasks.

Extends

Class "Regression.FitObj", directly. Class "BaseLearner.FitObj", by class "Regression.FitObj",
distance 2.

Methods

None.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

"BaseLearner.FitObj", "Regression.FitObj"

Examples

showClass("KNN.Regression.FitObj")
Classes

Classes for containing base learner batch training output.

Objects from the Class

Class "BaseLearner.Batch.FitObj" is virtual; therefore No objects may be created from it. Class "Regression.Batch.FitObj" extends "BaseLearner.Batch.FitObj" and is the output of function Regression.Batch.Fit.

Slots

fitobj.list: Object of class "list", containing the BaseLearner.FitObj outputs of lower-level BaseLearner.Fit function calls.
config.list: Object of class "list", containing the list of configuration objects for each base learner fit. This list is typically the output of make.configs function call.
filemethod: Object of class "logical", indicating whether file method is used for storing the estimation objects.
tmpfiles: Object of class "OptionalCharacter", containing (if applicable) the vector of filepaths used for storing estimation objects, if filemethod==TRUE. For Regression.Batch.FitObj (in addition to above slots):
pred: Object of class "matrix", with each column containing the predictions of one base learner.
y: Object of class "numeric", containing the response variable corresponding to the training set.

Methods

No methods defined with class "BaseLearner.Batch.FitObj" in the signature.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

Regression.Batch.Fit

Examples

showClass("BaseLearner.Batch.FitObj")
BaseLearner.Config-class

Classes "BaseLearner.Config", "Regression.Config"

Description

Base classes in the configuration class hierarchy.

Objects from the Class

"BaseLearner.Config" is a virtual Class: No objects may be created from it. "Regression.Config" is a base class for configuration classes of specific base learners, such as SVM.Regression.Config; therefore, there is typically no need to generate objects from this base class directly.

Extends

Class "Regression.Config" extends class "BaseLearner.Config", directly.

Methods

No methods defined with class "BaseLearner.Config" or "Regression.Config" in the signature.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also


Examples

showClass("BaseLearner.Config")

BaseLearner.CV.Batch.FitObj-class

Classes "BaseLearner.CV.Batch.FitObj" and "Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj"

Description

Classes for containing base learner batch CV training output.
Objects from the Class

BaseLearner.CV.Batch.FitObj is virtual Class; therefore, no objects may be created from it. Class Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj is the output of Regression.CV.Batch.Fit function.

Slots

- fitobj.list: Object of class "list", contains a list of objects of class BaseLearner.CV.FitObj, one per base learner instance.
- instance.list: Object of class "Instance.List", the list of base learner instance passed to the function Regression.CV.Batch.Fit that produces the object.
- filemethod: Object of class "logical", the boolean flag indicating whether estimation objects are saved to files or help in memory.
- tmpfiles: Object of class "OptionalCharacter", list of temporary files used for storing estimation objects (if any).
- tmpfiles.index.list: Object of class "list", with elements start and end, holding the start and end indexes into the tempfiles vector for each of the base learner instances trained. In addition, Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj contains the following slots:
- pred: Object of class "matrix", with each column being the training-set prediction for one of base learner instances.
- y: Object of class "OptionalNumeric", holding the response variable values for training set. This slot can be NULL for memory efficiency purposes.

Methods

No methods defined with class "BaseLearner.CV.Batch.FitObj" in the signature.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

Regression.CV.Batch.Fit

Description

Classes for containing base learner CV training output.

Objects from the Class

"BaseLearner.CV.FitObj" is a virtual class: No objects may be created from it. "Regression.CV.FitObj" is the output of Regression.CV.Fit function.
Slots

- `fitobj.list`: Object of class "list", contains a list of objects of class `BaseLearner.Fit`, one per partition fold.
- `partition`: Object of class "OptionalInteger", representing how data must be split across folds during cross-validation. This is typically the output of `generate.partition` function.
- `filemethod`: Object of class "logical", determining whether to save individual estimation objects to file or not. In addition, `Regression.CV.FitObj` contains the following slot:
  - `pred`: Object of class "OptionalNumeric", containing the prediction from the CV fit object for training data. This slot is allowed to take on a "NULL" value to reduce excess memory use by large ensemble models.

Methods

No methods defined with class "BaseLearner.CV.FitObj" in the signature.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

- `Regression.CV.Fit`

---

### BaseLearner.Fit-methods

*Generic S4 Method for Fitting Base Learners*

Description

Each base learner must provide its concrete implementation of this generic method.

Usage

```r
BaseLearner.Fit(object, formula, data, tmpfile=NULL, print.level=1, ...)
```

Arguments

- `object`: An object of class `BaseLearner.Config` (must be a concrete implementation such as `KNN.Regression.Config`).
- `formula`: Formula object expressing response and covariates.
- `data`: Data frame containing response and covariates.
- `tmpfile`: Filepath to save the estimation object to. If `NULL`, estimation object will not be saved to a file.
- `print.level`: Controlling verbosity level during fitting.
- `...`: Arguments to be passed to/from other methods.
Methods
signature(object = "GBM.Regession.Config")
signature(object = "KNN.Regession.Config")
signature(object = "NNET.Regession.Config")
signature(object = "RF.Regession.Config")
signature(object = "SVM.Regession.Config")

Description
Base class templates for containing base learner training output.

Objects from the Class
"BaseLearner.FitObj" is a virtual class: No objects may be created from it. "Regression.FitObj" is a base class for objects representing trained models for individual base learners.

Slots
config: Object of class "BaseLearner.Config"; often one of the derived configuration classes belonging to a particular base learner. For Regression.FitObj, we have the following additional fields:
est: Object of class "RegressionEstObj", typically containing the low-level list coming out of the training algorithm. If filemethod=TRUE during the fit, this object will be of class "character", containing the filepath to where the estimation object is stored.
pred: Object of class "OptionalNumeric", fitted values of the model for the training data. It is allowed to be "NULL" in order to reduce memory footprint during cross-validated ensemble methods.

Methods
No methods defined with these classes in their signature.

Author(s)
Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also
"KNN.Regession.FitObj","RF.Regession.FitObj","SVM.Regession.FitObj","GBM.Regession.FitObj","NNET.Regession.FitObj"
**Description**

An *Instance* is a combination of a base learner configuration and data partition. Instances constitute the major input into the cross-validation-based functions such as `Regression.CV.Batch.Fit`. An *Instance.List* is a collection of instances, along with the underlying definition of data partitions referenced in the instance objects. The function `make.instances` is a convenient function for generating an instance list from all permutations of a given list of base learner configurations and data partitions.

**Objects from the Class**

Objects can be created by calls of the form `new("Instance", ...)`. 

**Slots**

Instance has the following slots:

- `config`: Object of class "character" 

Instance.List has the following slots:

- `instances`: Object of class "list", with each element being an object of class *Instance*. 
- `partitions`: Object of class "matrix", defining data partitions referenced in each instance. This object is typically the output of `generate.partitions`.

**Methods**

No methods defined with class "Instance" in the signature.

**Author(s)**

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

**See Also**

`make.instances, generate.partitions, Regression.CV.Batch.Fit`

**Examples**

`showClass("Instance")`
**make.configs**

*Helper Functions for Manipulating Base Learner Configurations*

**Description**

Helper Functions for Manipulating Base Learner Configurations

**Usage**

```r
everything()  
make.configs(baselearner = c("nnet", "rf", "svm", "gbm", "knn"),  
config.df, type = "regression")  
make.configs.knn.regression(df = expand.grid(  
  kernel = c("rectangular", "epanechnikov", "triweight", "gaussian"),  
  k = c(5, 10, 20, 40))))  
make.configs.gbm.regression(df = expand.grid(  
  n.trees = c(1000, 2000),  
  interaction.depth = c(3, 4),  
  shrinkage = c(0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 0.5),  
  bag.fraction = 0.5))  
make.configs.svm.regression(df = expand.grid(  
  cost = c(0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 5.0, 10.50, 75, 100),  
  epsilon = c(0.1, 0.25),  
  kernel = "radial"))  
make.configs.rf.regression(df = expand.grid(  
  ntree = c(100, 500),  
  mtry.mult = c(1, 2),  
  nodesize = c(2, 5, 25, 100))))  
make.configs.nnet.regression(df = expand.grid(  
  decay = c(1e-4, 1e-2, 1, 100),  
  size = c(5, 10, 20, 40),  
  maxit = 2000))  
make.instances(baselearner.configs, partitions)  
extract.baselearner.name(config, type = "regression")
```

**Arguments**

- **baselearner**: Name of base learner algorithm. Currently, five base learners are included: 1) Neural Network (nnet using package nnet), 2) Random Forest (rf using package randomForest), 3) Support Vector Machine (svm using package e1071), 4) Gradient Boosting Machine (gbm using package gbm), and 5) K-Nearest-Neighbors (knn using package kknn).

- **df, config.df**: Data frame, with columns named after tuning parameters belonging to the base learner, and each row indicating a tuning-parameter combination to include in the configuration list.

- **type**: Type of base learner. Currently, only "regression" is supported.
baselearner.configs
   Base learner configuration list to use in generating instances.

partitions
   A matrix whose columns define data partitions, usually the output of `generate.partitions`.

config
   Base learner configuration object.

Value

The `make.configs` family of functions return a list of objects of various base learner `config` classes, such as `KNN.Regression.Config`. Function `make.instances` returns an object of class `Instance.List`. Function `extract.baselearner.name` returns a character object representing the name of the base learner associated with the passed-in `config` object. For example, for a `KNN.Regression.Config` object, we get back "KNN". This utility function can be used in printing base learner names based on class of a `config` object.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

Objects from the Class

These classes are typically part of more complex classes representing outputs of ensemble fit functions.

Methods

No methods defined with class "OptionalInteger" in the signature.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

`Regression.FitObj.BaseLearner.CV.FitObj.Regression.CV.FitObj`
Description

Batch Training, Prediction and Diagnostics of Regression Base Learners.

Usage

Regression.Batch.Fit(config.list, formula, data, ncores = 1,
   filemethod = FALSE, print.level = 1)
## S3 method for class 'Regression.Batch.FitObj'
predict(object, ..., ncores=1)
## S3 method for class 'Regression.Batch.FitObj'
plot(x, errfun=rmse.error, ...)

Arguments

config.list List of configuration objects for batch of base learners to be trained.
formula Formula objects expressing response and covariates.
data Data frame containing response and covariates.
ncores Number of cores to use during parallel training.
filemethod Boolean indicator of whether to save estimation objects to disk or not.
print.level Determining level of command-line output verbosity during training.
object Object of class Regression.Batch.FitObj to make predictions for.
... Arguments to be passed from/to other functions.
x Object of class Regression.Batch.FitObj to plot.
errfun Error function to use for calculating errors plotted.

Value


Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

Regression.Batch.FitObj
Examples

```r
data(servo)
myformula <- class~motor+screw+pgain+vgain
myconfigs <- make.configs("knn")
perc.train <- 0.7
index.train <- sample(1:nrow(servo), size = round(perc.train*nrow(servo)))
data.train <- servo[index.train,]
data.predict <- servo[-index.train,]
ret <- Regression.Batch.Fit(myconfigs, myformula, data.train, ncores=2)
newpred <- predict(ret, data.predict)
```

---

**Regression.CV.Batch.Fit**

*CV Batch Training and Diagnostics of Regression Base Learners*

---

**Description**

CV Batch Training and Diagnostics of Regression Base Learners.

**Usage**

```r
Regression.CV.Batch.Fit(instance.list, formula, data
 , ncores = 1, filemethod = FALSE, print.level = 1)
## S3 method for class 'Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj'
predict(object, ..., ncores=1)
## S3 method for class 'Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj'
plot(x, errfun=rmse.error, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `instance.list`: An object of class `Instance.List`, containing all combinations of base learner configurations and data partitions to perform CV batch training.
- `formula`: Formula object expressing response variable and covariates.
- `data`: Data frame expressing response variable and covariates.
- `ncores`: Number of cores in parallel training.
- `filemethod`: Boolean flag, indicating whether to save estimation objects to file or not.
- `print.level`: Verbosity level.
- `object`: Output of `Regression.CV.Batch.Fit`, object of class `Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj`.
- `...`: Arguments passed from/to other functions.
- `x`: Object of class `Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj`, to creates a plot from.
- `errfun`: Error function used in generating plot.
Value

Function Regression.CV.Batch.Fit produces an object of class \texttt{Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj}. The \texttt{predict} method produces a matrix, whose columns each represent training-set predictions from one of the batch of base learners (in CV fashion).

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

\texttt{Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj}

Examples

data(servo)
myformula <- class~motor+screw+pgain+vgain
myconfigs <- make.configs("knn")
perc.train <- 0.7
index.train <- sample(1:nrow(servo), size = round(perc.train*nrow(servo)))
data.train <- servo[index.train,]
data.predict <- servo[-index.train,]

parts <- generate.partitions(1, nrow(data.train))
myconfigs <- make.configs("knn")
instances <- make.instances(myconfigs, parts)

ret <- Regression.CV.Batch.Fit(instances, myformula, data.train)
newpred <- predict(ret, data.predict)

\begin{verbatim}
Regression.CV.Fit Cross-Validated Training and Prediction of Regression Base Learners
\end{verbatim}

Description

This function trains the base learner indicated in the configuration object in a cross-validation scheme using the \texttt{partition} argument. The cross-validated predictions are assembled and returned in the \texttt{pred} slot of the \texttt{Regression.CV.FitObj} object. Individual trained base learners are also assembled and returned in the return object, and used in the \texttt{predict} method.

Usage

\begin{verbatim}
Regression.CV.Fit(regression.config, formula, data
  , partition, tmpfiles = NULL, print.level = 1)
## S3 method for class 'Regression.CV.FitObj'
predict(object, newdata=NULL, ...)
\end{verbatim}
Regression.CV.Fit

Arguments

regression.config
An object of class \texttt{Regression.Config} (must be a concrete implementation of
the base class, such as \texttt{KNN.Regression.Config}).

formula
Formula object expressing response and covariates.

data
Data frame containing response and covariates.

partition
Data partition, typically the output of \texttt{generate.partition} function.

tmpfiles
List of temporary files to save the \texttt{est} field of the output \texttt{Regression.FitObj}.

print.level
Integer setting verbosity level of command-line output during training.

object
An object of class \texttt{Regression.FitObj}.

newdata
Data frame containing new observations.

... Arguments passed to/from other methods.

Value

Function \texttt{Regression.CV.Fit} returns an object of class \texttt{Regression.CV.FitObj}. Function \texttt{predict.Regression.CV.FitObj}
returns a numeric vector of length \texttt{nrow(newdata)}.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

\texttt{Regression.CV.FitObj}

Examples

data(servo)
myformula <- class~motor+screw+pgain+vgain
myconfig <- make.configs("knn", config.df=data.frame(kernel="rectangular", k=10))
perc.train <- 0.7
index.train <- sample(1:nrow(servo), size = round(perc.train*nrow(servo)))
data.train <- servo[index.train,]
data.predict <- servo[-index.train,]
mypartition <- generate.partition(nrow(data.train),nfold=3)
ret <- Regression.CV.Fit(myconfig[[1]], myformula, data.train, mypartition)
newpred <- predict(ret, data.predict)
Regression.Integrator.Config-class

Classes

"Regression.Integrator.Config",
"Regression.Select.FitObj"

Description

Virtual base classes to contain configuration and fit objects for integrator operations.

Objects from the Class

All virtual classes; therefore, no objects may be created from them.

Slots

For config classes:

errfun: Object of class "function"  for FitObj classes:

config: Object of class "Regression.Integrator.Config" or "Regression.Select.Config"
for the Integrator and Select classes.

est: Object of class ANY, containing estimation objects for concrete extensions of the virtual classes.

pred: Object of class "numeric", containing the prediction of integrator operations.

Methods

No methods defined with class "Regression.Integrator.Config" in the signature.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

Regression.Integrator.Fit, Regression.Select.Fit
Regression.Integrator.Fit-methods

Generic Integrator Methods in Package EnsembleBase

Description

Generic methods that can be extended and used in constructing integrator algorithms by other packages.

Usage

Regression.Integrator.Fit(object, X, y, print.level=1)
Regression.Select.Fit(object, X, y, print.level=1)

Arguments

- object: An object typically containing all configuration parameters of a particular integrator algorithm or operations.
- X: Matrix of covariates.
- y: Vector of response variables.
- print.level: Verbosity level.

RegressionEstObj-class

Class "RegressionEstObj"

Description

Union of (converted) S3 classes for individual base learners as defined in their corresponding packages. The special class "character" has been added to allow for returning filepaths when saving estimation objects to disk.

Objects from the Class

Objects from this class are typically returned as part of FitObj family of classes.

Methods

No methods defined with class "RegressionEstObj" in the signature.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

See Also

BaseLearner.FitObj
**RegressionSelectPred-class**

*Class* "RegressionSelectPred"

---

**Description**

Union of classes "NULL", "numeric" and "matrix" to hold prediction output of Select operations based on generic function `Regression.Select.Fit`. Class `null` is included to allow methods to save memory by not returning the prediction, especially when a high-level wrapper takes responsibility for holding a global copy of all prediction results. The "numeric" and "matrix" classes allow for a single predictor or multiple predictors to be produced by a Select operation.

**Objects from the Class**

A virtual Class: No objects may be created from it.

**Methods**

No methods defined with class "RegressionSelectPred" in the signature.

**Author(s)**

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

**See Also**

`Regression.Select.Fit`

---

**servo**  

*Servo Data Set*

---

**Description**

A small regression data set taken from UCI Machine Learning Repository. Response variable is "class".

**Usage**

data("servo")

**Format**

The format is: chr "servo"
Utility Functions

Source


Examples

data(servo)
lm(class~motor+screw+pgain+vgain, servo)

Description

Collection of utility functions for generating random partitions in datasets (for cross-validated operations), extracting regression response variable from dataset, loading an object from memory and assigning it to an arbitrary symbol, and error definitions.

Usage

generate.partition(ntot, nfold = 5)
generate.partitions(npart=1, ntot, nfold=5, ids=1:npart)
regression.extract.response(formula, data)
load.object(file)
rmse.error(a,b)

Arguments

ntot Total number of observations in the data set to be partitioned.
nfold Number of folds in the data partition.
npart Number of random partitions to generate.
ids Column names for the resulting partition matrix, used as partition ID.
formula Formula object to use for extracting response variable from data set.
data Data frame containing response variable as defined in formula.
file Filepath from which to read an R object into memory (saved using the save function).
a,b Vectors of equal length, used to calculate their RMSE distance.
Value

Function `generate.partition` returns an integer vector of length `ntot`, with entries - nearly - equally split in the range `1:nfold`. Function `generate.partitions` returns a matrix of size `ntot x npart`, with each column being a partition alike to the output of `generate.partition`. The columns are named `ids`. Function `regression.extract.response` returns a vector of length `nrow(data)`, containing the numeric response variable for regression problems. Function `load.object` returns the saved object, but only works if only a single R object was saved to the file. Function `rmse.error` returns a single numeric value representing root-mean-squared-error distance between vectors `a` and `b`.

Author(s)

Alireza S. Mahani, Mansour T.A. Sharabiani

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### validate-methods

**Description**

~~ Methods for function validate in package **EnsembleBase** ~~

**Methods**

signature(object = "Regression.Batch.FitObj")
signature(object = "Regression.CV.Batch.FitObj")
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