**Aaron’s comments for Eric on “rfPermute: Estimation of predictor importance significance in Random Forest models”**

9/22/16

“Major” comments:

* Intro, first paragraph: Maybe include one more sentence or phrase “selling” Random Forest. For example, you could highlight that it doesn’t assume normality of underlying data and is (relatively) robust to correlated predictors relative to other models.
* Intro, second paragraph, third sentence: Perhaps add a sentence or phrase that explicitly and plainly describes how features predict the response variable and feature importance is a measure that identifies the best features for predicting that response. This will be useful for novices.
* Execution, second paragraph: It may be useful to include a sentence or phrase explaining why you run this without replacement.
* Execution: Perhaps include a sentence or two describing the pros and cons/interpretations of scaled vs. unscaled feature importance measures.
* Page 5: I would highlight the fact that the user can plot only the predictors that were significant with *sig.only*.
* Performance: You may want to highlight *rp.combine* to concatenate the results of a split job (it doesn’t appear that *rp.combine* is mentioned in the ms).

Minor comments:

* Abstract: I think it should be “permutation-based estimates”
* Intro, second paragraph, first sentence: I suggest changing to “The most common implementation of Random…”
* Intro, first paragraph, second sentence: “it has been used in a wide…”
* Intro, third paragraph, second sentence: should it be “called rfPermute…” just so there’s no ambiguity that it’s new and created by you?