Ensembles

DS 6030 | Fall 2024

ensembles.pdf

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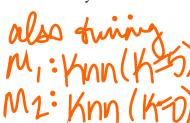
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Introduction to Ensemble Models

Ensemble models combine predictions from several individual models (individual models are also called base learners).

1.1 Notation

- · Observed data:
 - $D = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}\$
 - There are n observations
 - Regression: $y_i \in \mathbf{R}$
 - Classification: $y_i \in \mathcal{G}$
- Base learners (i.e., individual models)
 - $-\hat{g}_1(x), \hat{g}_2(x), \dots, \hat{g}_M(x)$
 - There are M base models
- · Ensemble Model
 - $\hat{f}(x) = \mathcal{F}(\hat{g}_1(x), \hat{g}_2(x), \dots, \hat{g}_M(x))$
 - $-\mathcal{F}$ is generic notation for methods of combining, aggregating, or using the information from all M models to make a prediction.
- Summary: Ensemble approaches differ in which base models are used how they are combined
- · Benefits:
 - Collective Knowledge of Crowds / Mixture of Experts
 - Bagging: variance reducer
 - Boosting: bias reducer



prediction from model K

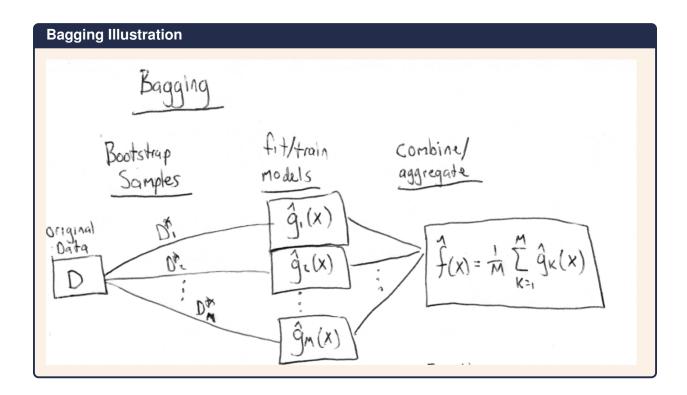
1.2 Bagging

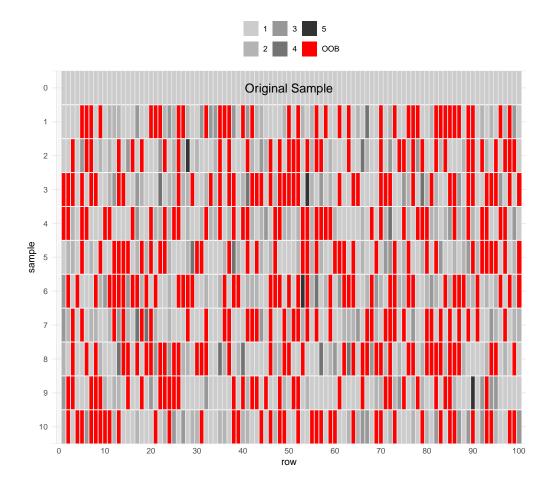
Bagging fits the same base model to bootstrap samples of the observed data and averages the predictions from each model.

- The base model, g(x), is usually a tree (or other high variance model)
- The predictions from the base models are averaged:

 $\hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{g}(x \mid D_k^*)$

- M is the number of bootstrap samples (and thus base models)
- D_k^* is the k^{th} bootstrap sample
- $\hat{g}(x\mid D_k^*)$ is the model fit to the k^{th} bootstrap sample





1.2.1 Bagging Variations

- Random Forest models fit trees to bootstrap data, but with the extra de-correlation step of only considering a subset of features for each split.
- **Sub-bagging**: D_k^* is a *sub-sample* (less than n) without replacement
- Bragging: use the *median* instead of the mean to combine predictions

trimmed mean: when you take out the top 50% and lower 50%, you get the

$$\hat{f}(x) = \text{median}(\hat{g}(x \mid D_1^*), \hat{g}(x \mid D_2^*), \dots, \hat{g}(x \mid D_M^*))$$

• Bumping: Like bagging, but choose best model instead of averaging.

mean to combine predictions
$$|D_1^*), \hat{g}(x \mid D_2^*), \dots, \hat{g}(x \mid D_M^*))$$
 to model instead of averaging.
$$\hat{f}(x) = \hat{g}(x \mid D_{\text{opt}}^*)$$
 comparison aged) dataset is being used for the final model

- where opt = $\arg\min_k \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, \hat{g}(x_i \mid D_k^*))$
- Include the original data D in the comparison
- Thus, only a single (potentially bagged) dataset is being used for the final model

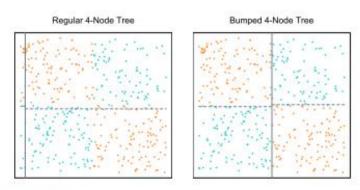


FIGURE 8.13. Data with two features and two classes (blue and orange), displaying a pure interaction. The left panel shows the partition found by three splits of a standard, greedy, tree-growing algorithm. The vertical grey line near the left edge is the first split, and the broken lines are the two subsequent splits. The algorithm has no idea where to make a good initial split, and makes a poor choice. The right panel shows the near-optimal splits found by bumping the tree-growing algorithm 20 times.

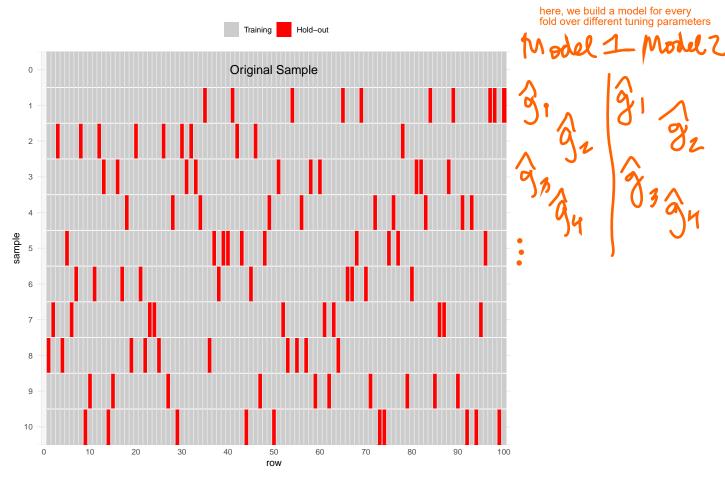
 Cross-Validation Committee: instead of using bootstrap samples, use cross-validation to make the different training sets

$$\hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{g}(x \mid D \setminus D_k)$$

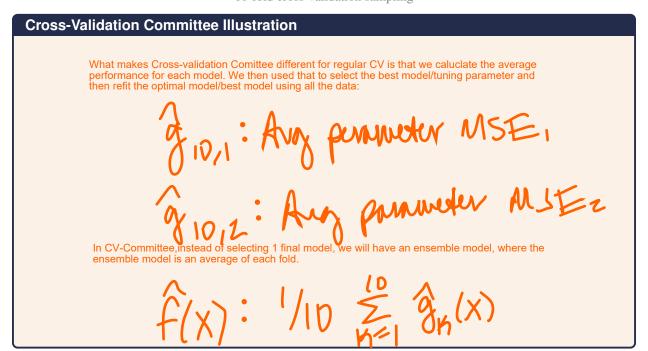
- $D \setminus D_k$ are all the observations not included in the k^{th} fold.
 - In this notation, there are M folds
 - Special case of sub-bagging!
- The special case of leave-one-out:

$$\hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{g}^{-i}(x)$$

Same tuning parameters used for all base models



10-fold cross-validation sampling



Model Averaging and Stacking

The basic idea of model averaging and (linear) stacking is simple to represent:

 $\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{a}_k \hat{g}_k(x)$

- The estimated weight \hat{a}_k determines how much the final aggregate model is influenced by model $\hat{g}_k(x)$
- Bagging uses equal weights $a_k = 1/M$ (i.e., nothing is estimated) and the same base models (e.g.,

Idea: instead of this all or nothing approach, maybe one of our models can be selected and the others are not

2.1 **Model Selection**

Model selection is the approach of choosing the *single best model*.

- In this setting, $\hat{a} = [\hat{a}_1, \dots, \hat{a}_M]$ is one-hot

 - All $\hat{a}_k = 0$, except one is 1. $\hat{a}_k \in \{0, 1\}, \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{a}_k = 1$

The best model is selected by: resampling (e.g., cross-validation, OOB error), AIC/BIC, GCV, LOO-CV, etc.

• We have done a type of *model selection* in choosing the optimal tuning parameters in ridge/lasso/mtry/k, etc.

Ensemble Motivation

We may be able to obtain better predictions if we combine all the models instead of just picking the best.

Model Averaging

Let there be M candidate models.

- Assume one of the M models is correct (i.e., one model generated the data)
 - Let \mathcal{M} denote the true model that generated the data
- Let $\pi_k = \Pr(\mathcal{M} = k)$ is the prior probability that model k is the true model

The posterior probability of model k is

• Let $\pi_k = \Pr(\mathcal{M} = k)$ is the prior probability since $p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k) = \int_{\Theta} p(D \mid \theta_k, \mathcal{M} = k) f(\theta_k \mid \mathcal{M} = k) d\theta_k$ posterior probability of model k is the probability of $p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k)$ is the probability of $p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k)$. n are model parmeters $\Pr(\mathcal{M} = k \mid \mathcal{D}) = \frac{p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k) \cdot \pi_k}{\sum_{m} p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = m) \cdot \pi_m}$

The best prediction (under a squared error loss) is

Her a squared error loss) is
$$f^*(x) = \mathrm{E}[Y \mid X = x, D]$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{M} \Pr(\mathcal{M} = k \mid D) \cdot \mathrm{E}[Y \mid X = x, D, \mathcal{M} = k]$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{M} a_k \cdot g_k(x)$$

• $g_k(x) = E[Y \mid X = x, D, \mathcal{M} = k]$ is the best prediction from model k.

• $a_k = \Pr(\mathcal{M} = k \mid D)$ is the posterior probability that model k is the correct model

Likelihood

In words, $P(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k)$ is the probability of observing data D given that the true model is k. However, most probability models have unknown model parameters θ . For example the Gaussian distribution has model parameters μ (the mean) and σ (the standard deviation).

The likelihood is a function of the model parameters:

$$L(\theta_k) = P(D \mid \theta_k, \mathcal{M} = k)$$

1. **Bayesian**. Specify a *prior* distribution $f_k(\theta)$ for the model parameters of model k.

$$p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k) = E_{f_k}[L(\theta)]$$

$$= \int_{\Theta} L(\theta) f_k(\theta) d\theta$$

$$= \int_{\Theta_k} p(D \mid \theta, \mathcal{M} = k) f_k(\theta) d\theta$$

2. **Frequentist** (Maximum Likelihood). Set θ to the value that maximizes the likelihood.

$$p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k) = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} L(\theta)$$

$$= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} p(D \mid \theta, \mathcal{M} = k) \qquad \text{over model}$$

2.2.1 BIC/AIC

Recall that we considered AIC and BIC for model selection (along with cross-validation).

Idea: AIC and BIC is close to the predictive model performance on the new data $\begin{cases} \mathrm{AIC}(k) = -2\log L(\hat{\theta}_k) + 2d(k) \\ \mathrm{BIC}(k) = -2\log L(\hat{\theta}_k) + \log n \cdot d(k) \end{cases}$

We're saying that the models that minimize AIC and BIC are best.

- $L(\hat{\theta}_k) = \max_{\theta \in \Theta_k} p(D \mid \theta, \mathcal{M} = k)$ is the maximized likelihood for model k
- d(k) is the effective degrees of freedom for model k (under MLE)

It turns out that under certain settings (a bit beyond the scope of this course) that BIC is a good estimate of $-2 \log p(D \mid \mathcal{M} = k)$. Therefore,

$$\log p(D\mid\mathcal{M}=k)\approx \underbrace{\log p(D\mid\hat{\theta}_k,\mathcal{M}=k)-\log n\cdot d(k)/2}_{-\frac{1}{2}\mathrm{BIC}(k)}$$
 All this said, here is the BMA approach. We fit our model, calculate performance on training data, add penalty, then plug this in to get our weights.

If we fill this into the posterior and set equal priors $(\pi_k = 1/M)$ we get

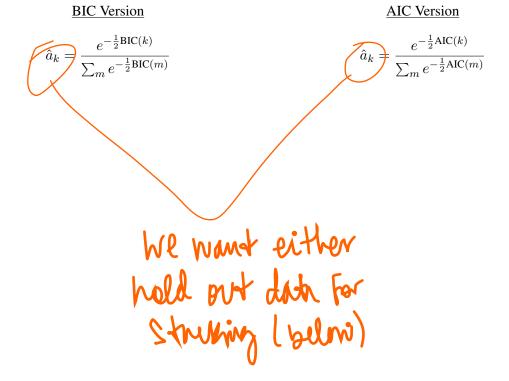
$$\Pr(\mathcal{M} = k \mid D) = \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}BIC(k)}}{\sum_{m} e^{-\frac{1}{2}BIC(m)}}$$

Thus for any model where AIC/BIC can be calculated (i.e., there is a likelihood and estimated degrees of

freedom) we can use the following ensemble:

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{a}_k \hat{g}_k(x)$$
 where $\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{a}_k \hat{g}_k(x)$

- where $\hat{g}_k(x)$ is the prediction from model k
- And the weights are:



2.3 Linear Stacking

A linear stacking model combines base models as a weighted sum

**The company of the compa

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{a}_k \hat{g}_k(x)$$

- Strictly speaking, this is a bit more general that model averaging as the weights aren't constrained to sum to 1 or even be non-negative. (Although it is essentially the same idea.)
- Stacking is popular in prediction contests as it is a great way to combine models from teammates
- Notice that each model $\hat{g}_k(x)$ and the weights $\hat{a}=(\hat{a}_1,\hat{a}_2,\ldots,\hat{a}_M)$ must be estimated.

Your Turn #1

1. In the best subsets and step-wise approaches, model $\hat{q}_k(x)$ is the best linear model with k predictors. What are the optimal weights if selected according to least squares (using the training data):

$$\hat{a} = \underset{a \in \mathbf{R}^M}{\arg\min} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \sum_{k=1}^M a_k \hat{g}_k(x_i))^2$$

2. In lasso/ridge regression, model $\hat{g}_k(x)$ is the model corresponding to λ_k . What are the optimal weights if selected according to least squares (using the training data):

$$\hat{a} = \underset{a \in \mathbf{R}^M}{\arg\min} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \sum_{k=1}^M a_k \hat{g}_k(x_i))^2$$

3. What would be a better way to select \hat{a} ?

2.3.1 Linear Stacking (Single Hold-Out)

The main idea behind linear stacking is to find the weights using out-of-sample predictions.

Algorithm: Single Hold-out Stacking

- 1. Partition the data into a training and testing set $D = [D_{\text{train}}, D_{\text{test}}]$
- 2. Fit each model with the data from the training set and make predictions for the data in test set
 - Let $\hat{g}_k(x_i \mid D_{\text{train}})$ denote the prediction for *test* observation i using the *training* data D_{train}
- 3. The optimal weights are selected as:

$$\hat{a} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{a} \sum_{i \in D_{\text{test}}} L\left(y_i, \sum_{k=1}^{M} a_k \, \hat{g}_k(x_i \mid \mathcal{D}_{\text{train}})\right)$$

4. (optional) The final prediction is made by fitting each model with all the data

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{a}_k \hat{g}_k(x \mid D)$$

• Note: the hold-out/test data is only used to estimate the weights

Because the prediction $\hat{y}_i|x_i$ is made from models that aren't trained with (x_i, y_i) , the stacking weights are fairly adjusted for different model complexities.

• E.g., a model that is too complex (overfits) will not make good estimates on the hold-out data and hence should receive a low weight.

Stacking Features

Another way to view stacking is that each model creates a set of *new features* (feature engineering):

$$Z_{ik} \neq \hat{g}_k(x_i \mid D_{\text{train}})$$

• where $x_i \in D_{\text{test}}$.

and uses a simple model (e.g., linear regression or logistic regression) to estimate the weights:

$$\hat{a} = \underset{a}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \sum_{i \in D_{\text{test}}} L\left(y_i, \sum_{k=1}^{M} a_k \, Z_{ik}\right)$$

- E.g., using linear regression, $\hat{a} = (Z^T Z)^{-1} Z^T Y$
- Note: we could also use constrained optimization to force the weights to be non-negative and sum to one (model averaging).
- Non-linear stacking: treat the Z_k as new features in a non-linear model.
- Add in the original feature X_{test} as interactions if certain regions features space are better predicted by certain models.
 - i.e., weights vary over feature space.
 - trees may be good ensemble models for this if there is sufficient hold-out data.

another

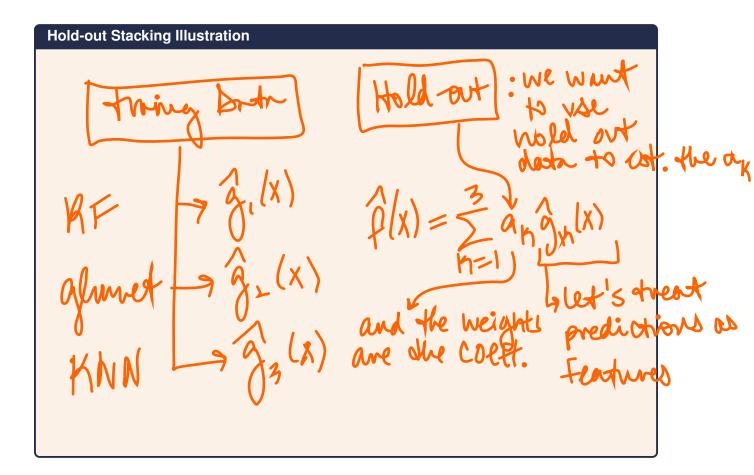
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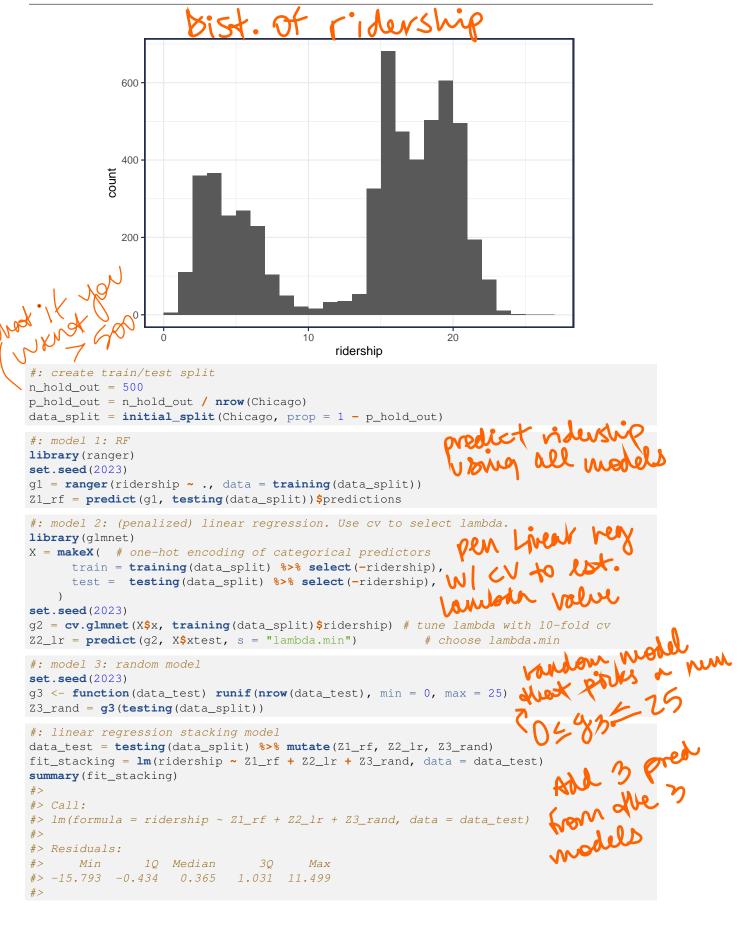
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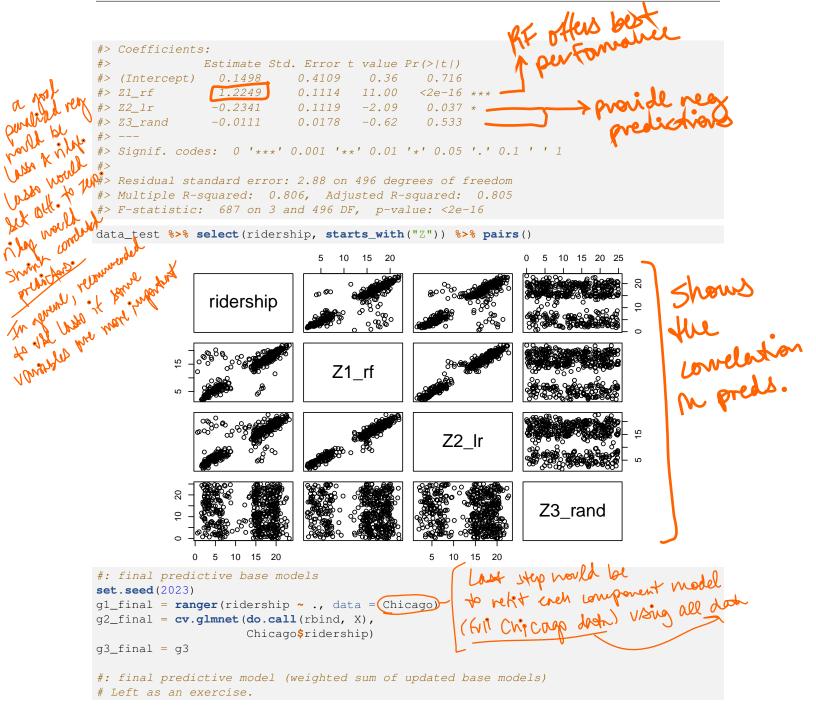


2.3.2 Linear Stacking Example

Implement a linear stacking model to predict ridership at a Chicago train station.

```
library (modeldata)
library(tidymodels)
library(tidyverse)
data("Chicago", package = "modeldata") # load Chicago train ridership data
head(Chicago)
#> # A tibble: 6 x 50
   ridership Austin Quincy_Wells Belmont Archer_35th Oak_Park Western Clark_Lake
#>
#>
        <db1> <db1> <db1> <db1> <db1> <db1> <db1>
                                                                         <db1>
       15.7 1.46
                           8.37
                                   4.60
                                              2.01
                                                              3.32
                                                                         15.6
#> 1
                                                     1.42
       15.8 1.50
                          8.35
                                   4.72
                                             2.09
                                                     1.43
                                                               3.34
                                                                        15.7
       15.9 1.52
#> 3
                          8.36
                                    4.68
                                              2.11
                                                      1.49
                                                               3.36
                                                                        15.6
#> 4
       15.9 1.49
                           7.85
                                    4.77
                                              2.17
                                                               3.36
                                                                        15.7
                                                      1.44
       15.4 1.50
                           7.62
                                    4.72
                                                                        15.6
#> 5
                                              2.06
                                                      1.42
                                                               3.27
         2.42 0.693
                           0.911
                                    2.27
                                              0.624
                                                      0.426
                                                               1.11
                                                                          2.41
#> # i 42 more variables: Clinton <dbl>, Merchandise_Mart <dbl>,
      Irving_Park <dbl>, Washington_Wells <dbl>, Harlem <dbl>, Monroe <dbl>,
#> # Polk <dbl>, Ashland <dbl>, Kedzie <dbl>, Addison <dbl>,
#> # Jefferson_Park <dbl>, Montrose <dbl>, California <dbl>, temp_min <dbl>,
#> # temp <dbl>, temp_max <dbl>, temp_change <dbl>, dew <dbl>, humidity <dbl>,
#> # pressure <dbl>, pressure_change <dbl>, wind <dbl>, wind_max <dbl>,
#> # gust <dbl>, gust_max <dbl>, percip <dbl>, percip_max <dbl>, ...
ggplot(Chicago, aes(ridership)) + geom_histogram(boundary = 0, binwidth = 1)
```





2.3.3 Linear Stacking (Cross-validated)

The main idea behind linear stacking is to find the weights using out-of-sample predictions.

Algorithm: Cross-Validated Stacking

- 1. Partition the data into V-folds (D_1, D_2, \dots, D_V)
- 2. Fit each model with the data from all folds except fold \boldsymbol{v} and make predictions for the data in fold \boldsymbol{v}
 - Repeat for all V folds

- Let $\hat{g}_k(x_i \mid D \setminus D_{v_i})$ denote the prediction for observation i using all the data except the data in the same fold as i (i.e., D_{v_i} is the data in the same fold as observation i)
- 3. The optimal weights are selected as:

$$\hat{a} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{a} \sum_{i=1}^{n} L\left(y_{i}, \sum_{k=1}^{M} a_{k} \, \hat{g}_{k}(x_{i} \mid D \setminus D_{v_{i}})\right)$$

4. (optional) The final prediction is made by fitting each model with all the data

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \hat{a}_k \hat{g}_k(x \mid D)$$

• Note: cross-validation is only used to estimate the weights

Because the prediction $\hat{y}_i|x_i$ is made from models that aren't trained with (x_i, y_i) , the stacking weights are fairly adjusted for different model complexities.

• E.g., a model that is too complex (overfits) will not make good estimates on the hold-out data and hence should receive a low weight

Stacking Features

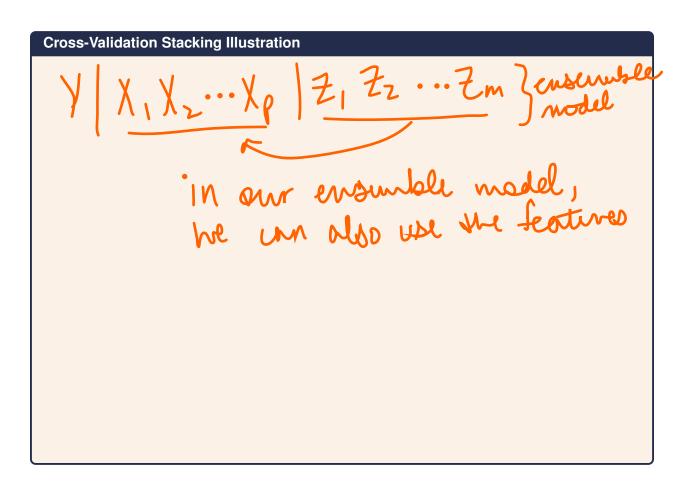
Another way to view stacking is that each model creates a set of new features (feature engineering):

$$Z_{ik} = \hat{g}_k(x_i \mid D \setminus D_{v_i})$$

and uses a simple model (e.g., linear regression or logistic regression) to estimate the weights:

$$\hat{a} = \underset{w}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} L\left(y_{i}, \sum_{k=1}^{M} w_{k} Z_{ik}\right)$$

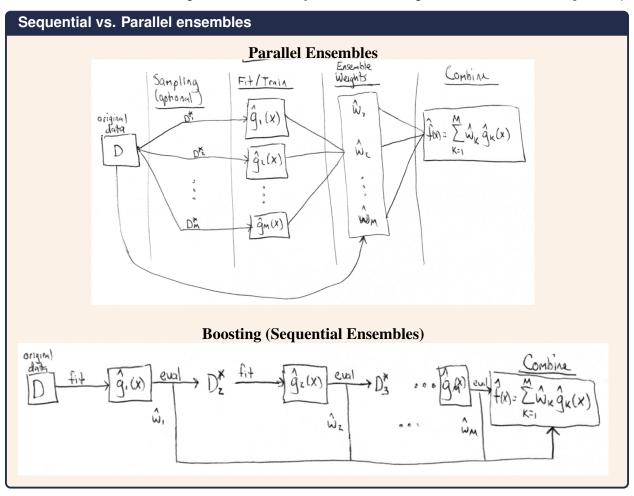
- E.g., using linear regression, $\hat{a} = (Z^T Z)^{-1} Z^T Y$
- Note: we could also use constrained optimization to force the weights to be non-negative and sum to one (model averaging)



3 Ensemble Models

3.1 Boosting Preview

So far, we have focused on fitting the base models in *parallel*. In boosting, the base models are fit *sequentially*.



The general idea of *boosting* is to fit models sequentially, where each model depends on the combination of previous models.

There are two primary approaches:

- 1. Gradient Boosting: Sequentially fit models to the (pseudo) residuals, where the residuals are larger for observations that are poorly predicted.
- 2. AdaBoost: Sequentially fit to re-weighted data, where the weights are larger for observations that are poorly predicted.

Boosting is primarily a bias reducer

• The base models are often simple/weak (low variance, but high bias) models (like shallow trees)

3.2 Constructing Ensemble Models

Ensemble methods differ on (i) which base models are included and (ii) how the base models are combined to form a final prediction.

Here are a few thoughts on different ensemble configurations

- Think about how these impact the overall bias and variance (including model correlation) trade-off
- Some of these ideas were taken from: Dietterich T.G. (2000) Ensemble Methods in Machine Learning. In: Multiple Classifier Systems. MCS 2000. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 1857. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg

3.2.1 Fitting Base Learners

- 1. Use same base learners (with different data/initialization) or different base learners.
 - Bagging and RF uses the same base learners, but fit with different (bootstraped) data
 - Better predictions may be achieved by using very different base learners (e.g., random forest, xgboost, GAM, ANN)
- 2. Use different data to train each model.
 - Bagging/RF uses bootstrap data to build different models
 - Boosting sequentially uses re-weighted or modified/residuals data
- 3. Use different sets of features to train each model.
 - RF randomly selects a sub-set of features for making each split
 - Has the potential to decrease correlation between base learners
- 4. Use different transformations of outcome variable to build models.
 - E.g., fit models to y and also $y' = \log y$ (and then backtransform)
 - E.g., one-vs-rest for classification
 - Gradient Boosting sequentially fits models to current residuals
- 5. Use randomness in model fitting.
 - use different initializations
 - RF uses random subset of features for each split
 - Average multiple stochastic models (of same family/tuning) from different seeds

3.2.2 Combining Models/Predictors

The base models can be combined in many different ways

- 1. Weighted sum/average
 - · Model Averaging
 - Stacking
- 2. Choose the best one
 - · Model Selection
 - (all weights are zero except 1 weight is one)
- 3. Use the median prediction (Bragging)

- 4. Parallel vs. Sequential
 - Bagging is parallel
 - Boosting is sequential