mlr3 Resampling: An Introduction

Natalie Foss

2022-09-19

Introduction

The purpose of this post is to introduce you to mlr3 resampling and give an example of how to train a model with resampling (showing the best practice methods), using the palmer penguins dataset. palmer penguins is a built in task described as "classification data to predict the species of penguins". Read more about the dataset here.

This blog post picks up from the previous post If you do not wish to read that post, this code chunk will get you up to speed (though we recommend you skim it).

```
library("mlr3")
task = tsk("penguins")
learner = lrn("classif.rpart")
measure = msr("classif.ce")
```

Review

In the last post we saw how depending on the random seed we can get performance estimates that vary widely:

```
set.seed(3)
splits = partition(task, ratio = 0.8, cat_col="species")
learner$train(task, splits$train)
prediction = learner$predict(task, splits$test)
prediction$score(measure)

## classif.ce
## 0.1014493

set.seed(22)
splits = partition(task, ratio = 0.8, cat_col="species")
learner$train(task, splits$train)
prediction = learner$predict(task, splits$test)
prediction$score(measure)

## classif.ce
## 0.01449275
```

In order to report the accurate predictive performance of your model, you need resampling.

Resampling methods

INFO

Similar to learners and performance measures, there are many popular resampling method implemented. You read about the options here, or just view them:

as.data.table(mlr_resamplings)

```
##
                                             label
                                                          params iters
              key
## 1:
        bootstrap
                                        Bootstrap ratio, repeats
## 2:
           custom
                                    Custom Splits
                                                                     NΑ
## 3:
        custom_cv Custom Split Cross-Validation
                                                                     NA
## 4:
                                 Cross-Validation
                                                                     10
                                                           folds
               CV
## 5:
                                          Holdout
                                                           ratio
                                                                      1
          holdout
## 6:
         insample
                             Insample Resampling
                                                                      1
## 7:
                                    Leave-One-Out
               100
                                                                     NΑ
## 8: repeated cv
                       Repeated Cross-Validation folds, repeats
                                                                    100
## 9: subsampling
                                      Subsampling ratio, repeats
```

Each resampling method has a set of parameters (0, 1, 2). To view the parameters and other metaa-information:

```
rsmp("bootstrap")$param_set
```

```
## <ParamSet>
## id class lower upper nlevels default value
## 1: ratio ParamDbl 0 1 Inf <NoDefault[3]> 1
## 2: repeats ParamInt 1 Inf Inf <NoDefault[3]> 30
```

Cross Validation is the resampling method we will use in this example, read about it here (called k-fold cross validation).

To initialize the resampling object we use the sugar function rsmp(). We specify any parameters that we want different than the defaults here.

```
cv = rsmp("cv", folds=10)
```

Now lets perform the resampling. We will set store_models to TRUE so we can look at individual models later (this defaults to FALSE to limit memory consumption).

```
rr = resample(task, learner, cv, store_models = TRUE)
        [10:11:29.928] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 1/10)
## INFO
        [10:11:29.984] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 2/10)
## INFO
## INFO
        [10:11:30.005] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 3/10)
## INFO
        [10:11:30.027] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 4/10)
## INFO
        [10:11:30.044] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 5/10)
        [10:11:30.060] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 6/10)
## INFO
        [10:11:30.100] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 7/10)
## INFO
## INFO
         [10:11:30.119] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 8/10)
         [10:11:30.137] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 9/10)
## INFO
```

[10:11:30.154] [mlr3] Applying learner 'classif.rpart' on task 'penguins' (iter 10/10)

rr

```
## <ResampleResult> of 10 iterations
## * Task: penguins
## * Learner: classif.rpart
## * Warnings: 0 in 0 iterations
## * Errors: 0 in 0 iterations
```

Now for the moment of truth, we can look at the performance **aggregated** over all resamplings.

rr\$aggregate(measure)

```
## classif.ce
## 0.05260504
```

Compare this classification error to the ones from the review section (0.1014493 and 0.01449275). It turns out that the true performance is between these values.

Learn about how to use pipelines to make resampling simpler here.

Or learn about benchmarking and how it can help you compare the performance of different learners and different tasks here.