# Getting Started with R: Titanic Competition in Kaggle

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This R Markdown document is based on the excellent tutorial of Trevor Stephens that you can find here: http://trevorstephens.com/post/72916401642/titanic-getting-started-with-r (http://trevorstephens.com/post/72916401642/titanic-getting-started-with-r).

This Markdown document is part of the IBM DeveloperWorks article: Using DashDB and Bluemix to solve a Kaggle Competition (http://example.com)

Kaggle is a platform for predictive modelling and analytics competitions on which companies and researchers post their data and statisticians and data miners from all over the world compete to produce the best models.



(https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic-gettingStarted/details/new-getting-started-with-r) (https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic-gettingStarted/details/new-getting-started-with-r)

In this article we are going to show some of the approaches that you can take to participate in the competition **Titanic: Machine Learning from Disaster**. The goal is to complete the analysis of what sorts of people were likely to survive.



(https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic-gettingStarted/details/new-getting-started-

with-r)

(https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic-gettingStarted/details/new-getting-started-with-r) (https://www.kaggle.com/c/titanic-gettingStarted/details/new-getting-started-with-r)

As most of Kaggle competitions, there are two datasets:

- training set: complete with the outcome for a group of passengers
- test set: you must predict the now unkown target variable based on the passenger attributes

We previously loaded our data in dashDB and now we can just load this data into data frames in R. Let's take a look at the structure of the dataframe:

```
#library(ibmdbR)
#con <- idaConnect("BLUDB","","")
#idaInit(con)
#query1<-paste('select * from train)
#train <- idaQuery(query1,as.is=F)
train <- read.csv("~/GitHub/TitanicShinyApplication/data/train.csv")
test <- read.csv("~/GitHub/TitanicShinyApplication/data/test.csv")
str(train)</pre>
```

```
##
  'data.frame':
                   891 obs. of 12 variables:
   $ PassengerId: int 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
##
                : int 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 ...
##
   $ Survived
   $ Pclass
                : int 3 1 3 1 3 3 1 3 3 2 ...
##
                : Factor w/ 891 levels "Abbing, Mr. Anthony",..: 109 191 358 277 16 559 520 629
##
   $ Name
417 581 ...
   $ Sex
                 : Factor w/ 2 levels "female", "male": 2 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 1 1 ...
##
##
   $ Age
                : num 22 38 26 35 35 NA 54 2 27 14 ...
   $ SibSp
                : int 1101000301...
##
   $ Parch
                : int 000000120 ...
##
   $ Ticket
                : Factor w/ 681 levels "110152", "110413", ...: 524 597 670 50 473 276 86 396 345
##
133 ...
   $ Fare
                : num 7.25 71.28 7.92 53.1 8.05 ...
##
                : Factor w/ 148 levels "", "A10", "A14", ...: 1 83 1 57 1 1 131 1 1 1 ....
##
   $ Cabin
##
   $ Embarked
                : Factor w/ 4 levels "", "C", "Q", "S": 4 2 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 2 ...
```

Using the **table** command we will get a vector that will count the occurrence of each value. Let's run this in order to get the number of passengers that survived and then number of passengers that died.

```
##
## 0 1
## 549 342
```

We can see that 342 passengers survived and 549 died. If instead you want to get the proportion, we can use the function **prop.table** 

```
##
## 0 1
## 0.6161616 0.3838384
```

Regarding this dataset, 38% of the passengers.

## **Prediction 1: Everybody dies**

In this first prediction to test the set dataframe is going to be assumed that everybody dies. Using the command **rep** we will have something repeated by the number of times we tell it too.

```
test$Survived <- rep(0, 418)
```

Since everybody is dead in the dataframe, it will repeat 0's prediction 418 times, the number of rows we have in the test dataset.

To summit in Kaggle.com we need to prepare a CSV file with the PassengerID as well as our Survived prediction.

```
submit <- data.frame(PassengerId = test$PassengerId, Survived = test$Survived)
write.csv(submit, file = "Prediction1.csv", row.names = FALSE)</pre>
```

2006 new Armand Ruis 0.62679 1

#### **Prediction 2: The Gender-Class Model**

In this new approach we will take a look at the Sex and Age variable to see if any patterns are evident.

```
summary(train$Sex)

## female male
## 314 577
```

Majority of the passengers were male. Let's see a comparison on the number of males and females that survived:

```
prop.table(table(train$Sex, train$Survived),1)

##
##
0 1
## female 0.2579618 0.7420382
```

We can see that the majority of females aboard survived, and a very low percentagle of males did. In this new prediction we will make all the females survive and all the males die.

```
test$Survived <- 0
test$Survived[test$Sex == 'female'] <- 1
#Creating Submit File
submit <- data.frame(PassengerId = test$PassengerId, Survived = test$Survived)
write.csv(submit, file = "Prediction2.csv", row.names = FALSE)</pre>
```

Submitting again...and..Awesome! Now we are in position 1697, we are 309 higher and now the accuracy is 76.55%.

```
1697 new Armand Ruis 0.76555 2
```

Let start checking the age variable:

male

##

0.8110919 0.1889081

```
summary(train$Age)
```

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's
## 0.42 20.12 28.00 29.70 38.00 80.00 177
```

The main issue we see in the age variable is that we have 177 missing values. There are many ways to face this issue, in this case is going to be assumed that the missing values are the average age of the rest of the passengers, late twenties.

In order to use proportion tables we have to have categorical variables. Let's create a new variable, Child, to indicate wheter the passenger is below the age of 18:

```
train$Child <- 0
train$Child[train$Age < 18] <- 1</pre>
```

Let's create a table with both gender and age to see the survival proportions for different subsets. For that we use the **aggregate** command that takes a formula with the target variable on the left hand side of the tilde symbol and the variables to subset over on the right. We then tell it which dataframe to look at with the data argument, and finally what function to apply to these subsets.

```
aggregate(Survived ~ Child + Sex, data=train, FUN=length)
```

```
Child
               Sex Survived
##
                         259
## 1
          0 female
## 2
          1 female
                          55
              male
                         519
## 3
          0
          1
## 4
              male
                          58
```

This looked at the length of the Survived vector for each subset and output the result. Let's check now the proportion.

```
aggregate(Survived \sim Child + Sex, \ data=train, \ FUN= \textbf{function}(x) \ \{sum(x)/length(x)\})
```

```
## Child Sex Survived

## 1 0 female 0.7528958

## 2 1 female 0.6909091

## 3 0 male 0.1657033

## 4 1 male 0.3965517
```

If the passenger is female most survive and if they were male most don't, regardless of wheter they were a child or not. So we are not going to change anything in our predictions here.

Next we will check the class variable, that is limited to a manageable 3 values, the fare is again a continuous variable that need to be reduced to something that can be easily tabulated.

```
train$Fare2 <- '30+'
train$Fare2[train$Fare < 30 & train$Fare >= 20] <- '20-30'
train$Fare2[train$Fare < 20 & train$Fare >= 10] <- '10-20'
train$Fare2[train$Fare < 10] <- '<10'</pre>
```

Noe let's run a longer aggregate function to see if there's anything interesting to work with:

```
aggregate(Survived \sim Fare2 + Pclass + Sex, \ data=train, \ FUN= \textbf{function}(x) \ \{sum(x)/length(x)\})
```

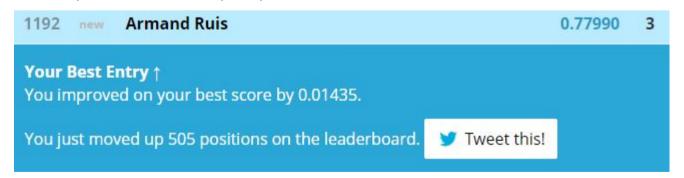
```
##
      Fare2 Pclass
                       Sex Survived
## 1
     20-30
                 1 female 0.8333333
## 2
                 1 female 0.9772727
        30+
## 3
     10-20
                 2 female 0.9142857
                 2 female 0.9000000
## 4
     20-30
## 5
        30+
                 2 female 1.0000000
## 6
        <10
                 3 female 0.5937500
## 7
     10-20
                 3 female 0.5813953
## 8
      20-30
                 3 female 0.3333333
## 9
        30+
                 3 female 0.1250000
## 10
        <10
                     male 0.0000000
## 11 20-30
                 1
                     male 0.4000000
## 12
        30+
                 1
                     male 0.3837209
## 13
        <10
                 2
                     male 0.0000000
##
  14 10-20
                 2
                     male 0.1587302
## 15 20-30
                 2
                     male 0.1600000
                 2
                     male 0.2142857
##
  16
        30+
                 3
                     male 0.1115385
## 17
        <10
                 3
## 18 10-20
                     male 0.2368421
## 19 20-30
                     male 0.1250000
                 3
                 3
                     male 0.2400000
## 20
        30+
```

While the majority of males, regardless of class or fare still don't do so well, we notice that most of the class 3 women who paid more than \$20 for their ticket actually also miss out on a lifeboat.

Let's make a new prediction based on this new insight.

```
test$Survived <- 0
test$Survived[test$Sex == 'female'] <- 1
test$Survived[test$Sex == 'female' & test$Pclass == 3 & test$Fare >= 20] <- 0
#Creating Submit File
submit <- data.frame(PassengerId = test$PassengerId, Survived = test$Survived)
write.csv(submit, file = "Prediction3.csv", row.names = FALSE)</pre>
```

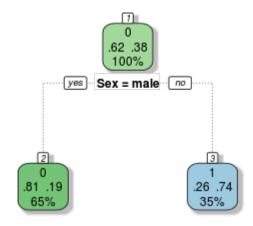
We are now in position 1192, moved up 505 positions and our score is 77.99%!



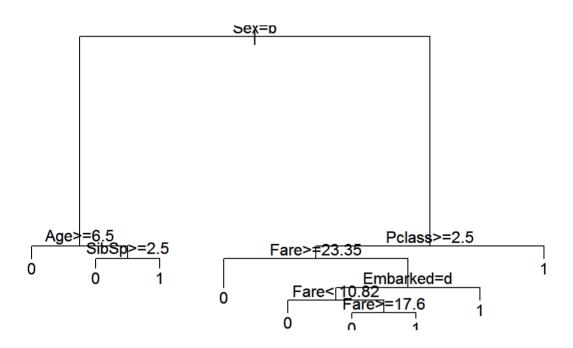
### **Prediction 3: Decision trees**

Decision trees have a number of advantages. After running the model you can see exactly what decisions will be made for unseen data that you want to predict. They are intuitive and can be read by people with little experience.

The algorithm start with all of the data at the root node and scans all of the variables for the best one to split on.



```
library(rpart)
fit <- rpart(Survived ~ Pclass + Sex + Age + SibSp + Parch + Fare + Embarked, data=train, method
="class")
plot(fit)
text(fit)</pre>
```

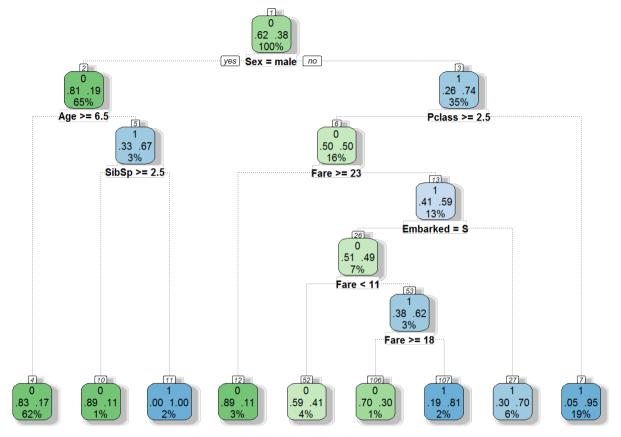


To create more informative graphic, using some external packages we can get some fancy trees.

```
library(rattle)
```

```
## Rattle: A free graphical interface for data mining with R.
## Version 3.3.0 Copyright (c) 2006-2014 Togaware Pty Ltd.
## Type 'rattle()' to shake, rattle, and roll your data.
```

```
library(rpart.plot)
library(RColorBrewer)
fancyRpartPlot(fit)
```

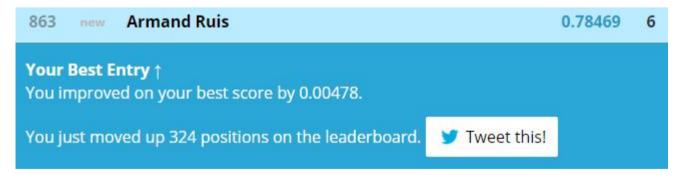


Rattle 2015-Mar-27 12:42:03 aruizga7

Let's create the prediction based on this decision tree and submit it to Kaggle.

```
Prediction <- predict(fit, test, type = "class")
submit <- data.frame(PassengerId = test$PassengerId, Survived = Prediction)
write.csv(submit, file = "Prediction4.csv", row.names = FALSE)</pre>
```

Now we scored 78.469%, which is an improvement of 0.478% and we moved up 324 positions!



## **Prediction 4: Feature Engineering**

Feature engineering is very important. Even a simple model with great features can outperform a complicated algorithm with poor ones.

In this case we are going to concentrate in the Name attribute. Obviously no one in the boat shared the same name but there is something they all share. The persons title, and this might give us a little insight.

```
train <- read.csv("~/GitHub/TitanicShinyApplication/data/train.csv")</pre>
test <- read.csv("~/GitHub/TitanicShinyApplication/data/test.csv")</pre>
train$Name[1]
```

```
## [1] Braund, Mr. Owen Harris
## 891 Levels: Abbing, Mr. Anthony ... Zimmerman, Mr. Leo
```

Next step is going to be to extract these title to make new variables. This will be performed in the training and

```
testing set.
We can use the function strsplit to break apart our original name. We use regular expressions to do that.
 test$Survived <- NA
 combi <- rbind(train, test)</pre>
 combi$Name <- as.character(combi$Name)</pre>
 combi$Name[1]
 ## [1] "Braund, Mr. Owen Harris"
 strsplit(combi$Name[1], split='[,.]')
 ## [[1]]
 ## [1] "Braund"
                          " Mr"
                                          " Owen Harris"
 strsplit(combi$Name[1], split='[,.]')[[1]]
 ## [1] "Braund"
                          " Mr"
                                          " Owen Harris"
 strsplit(combi$Name[1], split='[,.]')[[1]][2]
 ## [1] " Mr"
 combi$Title <- sapply(combi$Name, FUN=function(x) {strsplit(x, split='[,.]')[[1]][2]})</pre>
 combi$Title <- sub(' ', '', combi$Title)</pre>
 table(combi$Title)
 ##
             Capt
                             Col
                                           Don
                                                        Dona
                                                                         Dr
 ##
 ##
                 1
                               4
                                             1
                                                            1
                                                                          8
                                                                       Miss
         Jonkheer
                            Lady
                                         Major
                                                      Master
 ##
                                                                        260
 ##
                 1
                               1
                                                           61
                                             2
             Mlle
 ##
                             Mme
                                            Mr
                                                          Mrs
                                                                         Ms
 ##
                 2
                               1
                                           757
                                                          197
                                                                          2
 ##
              Rev
                             Sir the Countess
 ##
                 8
                               1
                                              1
```

There are a few rare titles that is better to combine them into a single category. We do that using the %in%

operator, that checks to see if a value is part of the vector we're comparing to. We create different categories called **Sir**, **Lady**, **Mlle**, and we change the variable type to a factor.

```
combi$Title[combi$Title %in% c('Mme', 'Mlle')] <- 'Mlle'
combi$Title[combi$Title %in% c('Capt', 'Don', 'Major', 'Sir')] <- 'Sir'
combi$Title[combi$Title %in% c('Dona', 'Lady', 'the Countess', 'Jonkheer')] <- 'Lady'
combi$Title <- factor(combi$Title)</pre>
```

Maybe some families had more trouble than other to get lifeboats? Next step is to extract the Surname of the passengers and group them to find families. Using this we create a new category called family size.

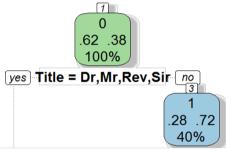
```
combi$FamilySize <- combi$SibSp + combi$Parch + 1
combi$Surname <- sapply(combi$Name, FUN=function(x) {strsplit(x, split='[,.]')[[1]][1]})
combi$FamilyID <- paste(as.character(combi$FamilySize), combi$Surname, sep="")
combi$FamilyID[combi$FamilySize <= 2] <- 'Small'
table(combi$FamilyID)</pre>
```

				##
3Beckwith	3Appleton	3Abbott	11Sage	##
2	1	3	11	##
3Caldwell	3Brown	3Bourke	3Boulos	##
3	4	3	3	##
3Cornell	3Compton	3Collyer	3Christy	##
1	3	3	2	##
3Davies	3Danbom	3Crosby	3Coutts	##
5	3	3	3	##
3Elias	3Drew	3Douglas	3Dodge	##
3	3	1	3	##
3Goldsmith	3Frolicher-Stehli	3Frolicher	3Frauenthal	##
3	2	1	1	##
3Hart	3Hansen	3Hamalainen	3Gustafsson	##
3	1	2	2	##
3Hirvonen	3Hiltunen	3Hickman	3Hays	##
1	1	3	2	##
3Kink-Heilmann	3Kink	3Johnson		##
	2	3	2	##
		3Lahtinen	3Klasen	##
3	3	2	3	##
_	_	3Moubarek		##
3	3	3	1	##
		3Newsom	3Newell	##
3		3New30iii 1	1	##
	3Richards		3Peter	##
3	2	3	3	##
3Spedden	_	3Sandstrom		##
3	331 (Veil 1	3	3	##
_		3Taussig		##
31110111aS	-	3 aussig	35(10)	
3Vander Planke		3van Billiard		## ##
3 valider Ptalike	•			
_		3 2Wick	3	##
4Allison 4		3Wick 3	3wells	##
				##
4Carter		4Baclini	4Backstrom	##
4		40000	1	##
_		4Dean	4Davidson	##
2 4Danau f		4.3.5 5.5 5.5	1	##
4Renouf		4Johnston		##
1		4	1	##
5Hocking		4West	4Vander Planke	##
1		4	1	##
		5Lefebre		##
5		5	1	##
		6Panula	6Fortune	##
1	6	6	6	##
8Goodwin	7Asplund		_	##
8	7	9	6	##
			Small	##
			1025	##

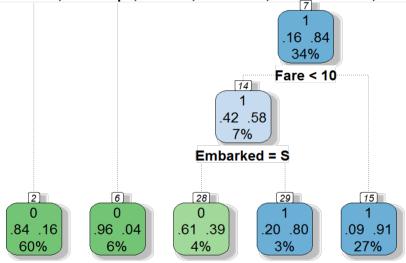
```
famIDs <- data.frame(table(combi$FamilyID))
famIDs <- famIDs[famIDs$Freq <= 2,]
combi$FamilyID[combi$FamilyID %in% famIDs$Var1] <- 'Small'
combi$FamilyID <- factor(combi$FamilyID)</pre>
```

We split again the test and train datasets, and do predictions using these new categories. There are many methods to do feature selection.

Let's do our predictions!



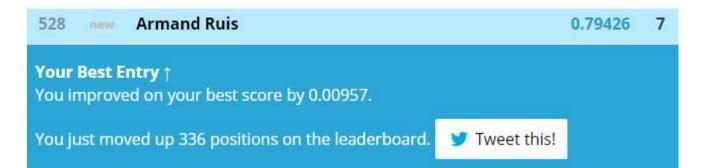
3ourke,3Danbom,3Rosblom,3Van Impe,4Allison,4Johnston,5Ford,5Lefebre,5Palsson,6Panula,6Rice,6



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```
#Submitting
Prediction <- predict(fit, test, type = "class")
submit <- data.frame(PassengerId = test$PassengerId, Survived = Prediction)
write.csv(submit, file = "Prediction5.csv", row.names = FALSE)</pre>
```

With feature selection, we improved the performance of Decision Trees by 0.957% and moved up 336 positions!



#### **Prediction 5: Random Forest**

Decision trees can have some limitations. We will try to use a different method using the powerful Random Forest algorithm.

```
train <- read.csv("~/GitHub/TitanicShinyApplication/data/train.csv")</pre>
test <- read.csv("~/GitHub/TitanicShinyApplication/data/test.csv")</pre>
library(rpart)
library(randomForest)
## randomForest 4.6-10
## Type rfNews() to see new features/changes/bug fixes.
library(party)
## Warning: package 'party' was built under R version 3.1.3
## Loading required package: grid
## Loading required package: mvtnorm
## Warning: package 'mvtnorm' was built under R version 3.1.3
## Loading required package: modeltools
## Warning: package 'modeltools' was built under R version 3.1.3
## Loading required package: stats4
## Loading required package: strucchange
## Warning: package 'strucchange' was built under R version 3.1.3
```

```
## Loading required package: zoo
##
## Attaching package: 'zoo'
##
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
## as.Date, as.Date.numeric
##
## Loading required package: sandwich
```

```
## Warning: package 'sandwich' was built under R version 3.1.3
```

```
# Join together the test and train sets for easier feature engineering
test$Survived <- NA
combi <- rbind(train, test)</pre>
# Convert to a string
combi$Name <- as.character(combi$Name)</pre>
# Engineered variable: Title
combi$Title <- sapply(combi$Name, FUN=function(x) {strsplit(x, split='[,.]')[[1]][2]})</pre>
combi$Title <- sub(' ', '', combi$Title)</pre>
# Combine small title groups
combi$Title[combi$Title %in% c('Mme', 'Mlle')] <- 'Mlle'</pre>
combi$Title[combi$Title %in% c('Capt', 'Don', 'Major', 'Sir')] <- 'Sir'</pre>
combi$Title[combi$Title %in% c('Dona', 'Lady', 'the Countess', 'Jonkheer')] <- 'Lady'</pre>
# Convert to a factor
combi$Title <- factor(combi$Title)</pre>
# Engineered variable: Family size
combi$FamilySize <- combi$SibSp + combi$Parch + 1</pre>
# Engineered variable: Family
combi$Surname <- sapply(combi$Name, FUN=function(x) {strsplit(x, split='[,.]')[[1]][1]})</pre>
combi$FamilyID <- paste(as.character(combi$FamilySize), combi$Surname, sep="")</pre>
combi$FamilyID[combi$FamilySize <= 2] <- 'Small'</pre>
# Delete erroneous family IDs
famIDs <- data.frame(table(combi$FamilyID))</pre>
famIDs <- famIDs[famIDs$Freq <= 2,]</pre>
combi$FamilyID[combi$FamilyID %in% famIDs$Var1] <- 'Small'</pre>
# Convert to a factor
combi$FamilyID <- factor(combi$FamilyID)</pre>
# Fill in Age NAs
summary(combi$Age)
```

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's
## 0.17 21.00 28.00 29.88 39.00 80.00 263
```

```
##
     PassengerId
                        Survived
                                            Pclass
                                                             Name
##
    Min.
            :
                1
                    Min.
                            :0.0000
                                       Min.
                                               :1.000
                                                         Length: 1309
##
    1st Qu.: 328
                    1st Qu.:0.0000
                                       1st Qu.:2.000
                                                         Class : character
    Median: 655
##
                    Median :0.0000
                                       Median :3.000
                                                         Mode :character
##
    Mean
           : 655
                    Mean
                            :0.3838
                                       Mean
                                               :2.295
    3rd Qu.: 982
##
                    3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                       3rd Qu.:3.000
##
    Max.
            :1309
                    Max.
                            :1.0000
                                       Max.
                                               :3.000
                    NA's
                            :418
##
##
        Sex
                        Age
                                        SibSp
                                                           Parch
                                                              :0.000
    female:466
                  Min.
                                    Min.
                                            :0.0000
                                                      Min.
##
                          : 0.17
    male :843
                  1st Qu.:22.00
                                    1st Qu.:0.0000
                                                       1st Qu.:0.000
##
                  Median :28.86
                                    Median :0.0000
                                                      Median :0.000
##
##
                  Mean
                          :29.70
                                    Mean
                                            :0.4989
                                                      Mean
                                                              :0.385
##
                  3rd Qu.:36.50
                                    3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                                      3rd Qu.:0.000
##
                  Max.
                          :80.00
                                            :8.0000
                                                              :9.000
                                    Max.
                                                      Max.
##
##
         Ticket
                           Fare
                                                       Cabin
                                                                   Embarked
                                                                    : 2
##
    CA. 2343:
                11
                     Min.
                             :
                                0.000
                                                          :1014
##
    1601
                 8
                     1st Qu.: 7.896
                                         C23 C25 C27
                                                                   C:270
                                                          :
                                                              6
##
    CA 2144:
                 8
                     Median : 14.454
                                         B57 B59 B63 B66:
                                                              5
                                                                   Q:123
##
    3101295 :
                 7
                     Mean
                             : 33.295
                                         G6
                                                              5
                                                                   S:914
##
    347077 :
                 7
                     3rd Qu.: 31.275
                                         B96 B98
                                                          :
                                                              4
                                         C22 C26
                                                              4
##
    347082 :
                 7
                     Max.
                             :512.329
                                                          :
##
    (Other) :1261
                     NA's
                             :1
                                          (Other)
                                                          : 271
                     FamilySize
##
        Title
                                        Surname
                                                                  FamilyID
##
    Mr
            :757
                           : 1.000
                                      Length: 1309
                                                           Small
                                                                      :1074
                   Min.
            :260
                   1st Qu.: 1.000
##
    Miss
                                      Class :character
                                                           11Sage
                                                                      :
                                                                         11
##
    Mrs
            :197
                   Median : 1.000
                                      Mode :character
                                                           7Andersson:
                                                                          9
##
    Master: 61
                   Mean
                           : 1.884
                                                           8Goodwin
                                                                          8
                                                                          7
##
    Dr
               8
                   3rd Qu.: 2.000
                                                           7Asplund
                                                                      :
                           :11.000
                                                           6Fortune
##
    Rev
            :
               8
                   Max.
                                                                          6
    (Other): 18
                                                           (Other)
##
                                                                      : 194
```

```
# Fill in Embarked blanks
summary(combi$Embarked)
```

```
## C Q S
## 2 270 123 914
```

```
which(combi$Embarked == '')
```

```
combi$Embarked[c(62,830)] = "S"
combi$Embarked <- factor(combi$Embarked)
# Fill in Fare NAs
summary(combi$Fare)</pre>
```

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's
## 0.000 7.896 14.450 33.300 31.280 512.300 1
```

```
which(is.na(combi$Fare))
```

```
## [1] 1044
```

```
combi$Fare[1044] <- median(combi$Fare, na.rm=TRUE)</pre>
# New factor for Random Forests, only allowed <32 levels, so reduce number
combi$FamilyID2 <- combi$FamilyID</pre>
# Convert back to string
combi$FamilyID2 <- as.character(combi$FamilyID2)</pre>
combi$FamilyID2[combi$FamilySize <= 3] <- 'Small'</pre>
# And convert back to factor
combi$FamilyID2 <- factor(combi$FamilyID2)</pre>
# Split back into test and train sets
train <- combi[1:891,]</pre>
test <- combi[892:1309,]
# Build Random Forest Ensemble
set.seed(415)
fit <- randomForest(as.factor(Survived) ~ Pclass + Sex + Age + SibSp + Parch + Fare + Embarked +
Title + FamilySize + FamilyID2,
                     data=train, importance=TRUE, ntree=2000)
# Look at variable importance
varImpPlot(fit)
```

