Whose Scat Is That?

An "Easily Digestible" Introduction to Predictive Modeling in R and the caret Package

Max Kuhn Pfizer R&D

London R-Ladies

or

What Species Was That Feces?

An "Easily Digestible" Introduction to Predictive Modeling in R and the caret Package

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Outline

The slides and code for this presentation are in the github repository https://github.com/topepo/R-Ladies-London.

The following R packages are used (and their dependencies): caret (version 6.0-71 or greater), glmnet, nnet, ipred, rpart.

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Statistical Issues with Class Imbalances

Reid (2015):

"Coyotes, bobcats and gray foxes are all common mammalian mesopredators in coastal California and are found sympatrically in much of North America. Scats produced by these three animals are quite similar, but have historically been differentiated largely by morphology. I tested the efficacy of morphological classification of scat to species by building predictive models for species identification with a set of well-described, DNA-verified scats."

Reid, R. E. B. (2015). A morphometric modeling approach to distinguishing among bobcat, coyote and gray fox scats. *Wildlife Biology*, 21(5), 254–262, http://www.bioone.org/doi/10.2981/wlb.00105

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Load the Data

```
> library(caret)
> data(scat)
> str(scat)
'data.frame': 110 obs. of 19 variables:
$ Species : Factor w/ 3 levels "bobcat", "coyote",...: 2 2 1 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 ...
$ Month
           : Factor w/ 9 levels "April", "August", ...: 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 ...
           $ Year
$ Site
          : Factor w/ 2 levels "ANNU", "YOLA": 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 ...
$ Location : Factor w/ 3 levels "edge", "middle", ...: 1 1 2 2 1 1 3 3 3 2 ...
$ Age
           : int 5 3 3 5 5 5 1 3 5 5 ...
$ Number : int 2 2 2 2 4 3 5 7 2 1 ...
$ Length : num 9.5 14 9 8.5 8 9 6 5.5 11 20.5 ...
$ Diameter: num 25.7 25.4 18.8 18.1 20.7 21.2 15.7 21.9 17.5 18 ...
                41.9 37.1 16.5 24.7 20.1 28.5 8.2 19.3 29.1 21.4 ...
$ Taper
           : num
$ TI
                1.63 1.46 0.88 1.36 0.97 1.34 0.52 0.88 1.66 1.19 ...
           : num
$ Mass
           : num 15.9 17.6 8.4 7.4 25.4 ...
$ d13C
          : niim
               -26.9 -29.6 -28.7 -20.1 -23.2 ...
$ d15N
               6.94 9.87 8.52 5.79 7.01 8.28 4.2 3.89 7.34 6.06 ...
           : num
$ CN
           : num 8.5 11.3 8.1 11.5 10.6 9 5.4 5.6 5.8 7.7 ...
$ ropey : int 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 ...
$ segmented: int 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 ...
$ flat
           : int 0000000000...
$ scrape
          : int 0010001000...
```

Some Data Are Missing

```
> pct_nonmissing <- function(x) mean(!is.na(x))</pre>
> unlist(lapply(scat, pct_nonmissing))
 Species
             Month
                        Year
                             Site Location
                                                       Age
                                                              Number
                                                                        Length
1.0000000 1.0000000 1.0000000 1.0000000 1.0000000 1.0000000 1.0000000 1.0000000
Diameter
             Taper
                          ΤI
                                  Mass
                                            d13C
                                                      d15N
                                                                  CN
                                                                        ropey
0.9454545 0.8454545 0.8454545 0.9909091 0.9818182 0.9818182 0.9818182 1.0000000
segmented
              flat
                      scrape
1.0000000 1.0000000 1.0000000
```

Before Exploring the Data

There is no a huge amount of data here and one of our main concerns should be biasing ourselves. For example, we don't what to look at the data and then create models to fit our expectations.

A better approach is to randomly holdback some data (a *test set*) to evaluate trends that we see in the remaining data (called the *training set*).

Let's hold out 25% of the data back for testing. We can do a stratified random split of the data within the species so that we preserve the frequencies of each animal.

caret has a function called createDataPartition that will do this.

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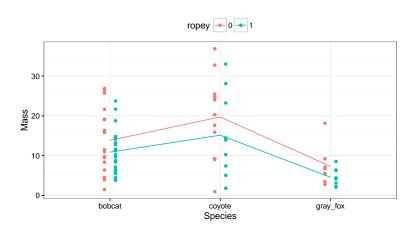
Split the Data

```
> set.seed(11218)
> in_train <- createDataPartition(scat$Species, p = 3/4, list = FALSE)</pre>
> head(in train)
     Resample1
[1,]
[2,]
[3,]
[4,]
[5,]
[6,]
> train_data <- scat[ in_train,]</pre>
> test_data <- scat[-in_train,]</pre>
> ## It isn't much data but it's better than nothing...
> table(test_data$Species)
  bobcat
          coyote gray_fox
      14
```

Interaction Plot Code

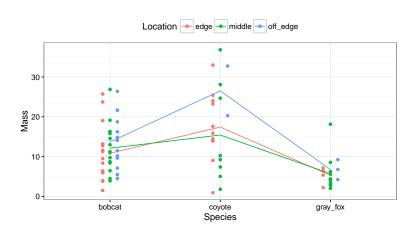
```
> int_plot <- function(dat, y, x, group) {
+ library(plyr)
+ if(!is.factor(dat[,group])) dat[,group] <- factor(dat[,group])
+ means <- ddply(dat, c(y, group),
+ function(obj) c(mean = mean(obj[,x], na.rm = TRUE)))
+ ggplot(dat,
+ aes_string(y = x, x = y, color = group, group = group)) +
+ geom_point(position = position_dodge(width = 0.2)) +
+ geom_line(data = means, aes_string(y = "mean")) +
+ theme(legend.position = "top")
+ }</pre>
```

Investigate Differences in Species×Mass×Morphology

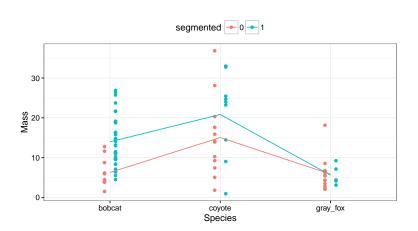


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$Species \times Mass \times Location$

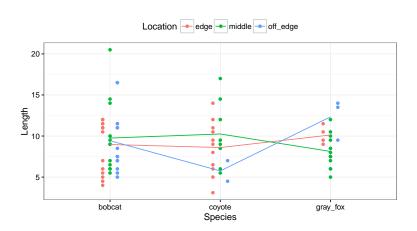


$Species \times Mass \times Morphology$

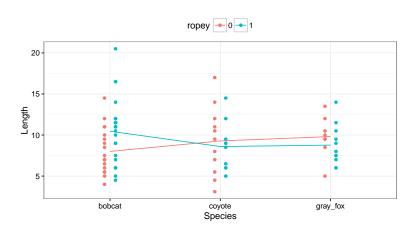


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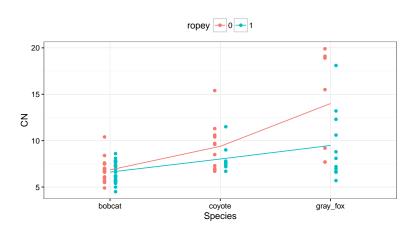
$Species \times Length \times Location$



$Species \times Length \times Morphology$



Species×C/N Ratio×Morphology



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Dummy Variables

A few of the potential predictors are categorical in nature. *Most* models require numeric representations of the data.

When a predictor has C possible values, a common approach is to create C-1 binary dummy variables to use in the model. For example, Location has three levels:

	Dumn	Dummy Variable Columns		
Data Value	edge	middle	off_edge	
"edge"	1	0	0	
"middle"	0	1	0	
"off_edge"	0	0	1	

For *ordered* categorical predictors, the default encoding is more complex. See "The Basics of Encoding Categorical Data for Predictive Models" at http://bit.ly/1CtXg0x

Dummy Variables and Model Functions

The primary convention in R is to convert factors to dummy variables when a model uses the formula interface (examples later).

However, this is not always the case. Many models using trees or rules (e.g. rpart, C5.0, randomForest, etc):

- do not require numeric representations of the predictors
- do not create dummy variables

Other notable exceptions are naive Bayes models and support vector machines using string kernel functions.

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The Formula Interface

There are two main conventions for specifying models in **R**: the formula interface and the non–formula (or "matrix") interface.

For the former, the predictors are explicitly listed in an R formula that looks like: outcome \sim var1 + var2 +

For example, the formula

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The Formula Interface

The shortcut y \sim . can be used to indicate that all of the columns in the data set (except y) should be used as a predictor.

The formula interface has many conveniences. For example, transformations, such as log(acres) can be specified in–line.

Unfortunately, ${\bf R}$ does not efficiently store the information about the formula. Using this interface with data sets that contain a large number of predictors may unnecessarily slow the computations.

NOTE: Many functions do classification or regression on the basis of the outcome class (e.g. factor or numeric)

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The Matrix or Non-Formula Interface

The non-formula interface specifies the predictors for the model using a matrix or data frame (all the predictors in the object are used in the model).

The outcome data are usually passed into the model as a vector object. For example:

In this case, transformations of data or dummy variables must be created prior to being passed to the function.

Note that not all R functions have both interfaces.

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An Initial Model

Let's fit an initial *small* model to the predictors that do not have missing data.

We'll use the formula method so that we don't worry about factors predictors and eliminate one data point that has a missing values for Mass.

We will fit a multinomial regression model where each class is a slope and intercept on the log-odds scale

$$logit(\pi_j) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \ldots + \beta_p x_p$$

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 Scat!

Measuring Performance

What metric should we use to tell if the model is predictive?

Overall accuracy can be used, but this may be problematic since the classes are not balanced.

The Kappa statistic takes into account the expected error rate:

$$\kappa = \frac{O - E}{1 - E}$$

where ${\cal O}$ is the observed accuracy and ${\cal E}$ is the expected accuracy under chance agreement

We could also use the multinomial log-likelihood but this isn't really connected to predictive performance in the way that accuracy and Kappa are. I'll use Kappa.

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Resampling

Building data model and re–predicting the same samples can result in highly optimistic estimates of performance.

One obvious way to detect over–fitting is to use a test set. However, repeated "looks" at the test set can also lead to over–fitting

Resampling the training samples allows us to know when we are making poor choices for the values of these parameters (the test set is not used).

Resampling methods try to "inject variation" in the system to approximate the model's performance on future samples.

See the two blog posts "Comparing Different Species of Cross-Validation" at http://bit.ly/1yE0Ss5 and http://bit.ly/1zfoFj2

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V-Fold Cross-Validation

Here, we randomly split the data into $\,V\,$ distinct blocks of roughly equal size.

- We leave out the first block of data and fit a model.
- This model is used to predict the held-out block

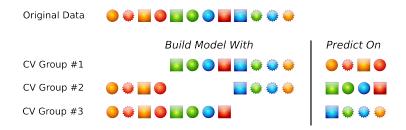
The final performance is based on the hold-out predictions

 ${\cal V}$ is usually taken to be 5 or 10 and leave one out cross–validation has each sample as a block

Repeated V-fold CV creates multiple versions of the folds and aggregates the results (I prefer this method)

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V-Fold Cross-Validation



Model Function Consistency

Since there are many modeling packages written by different people, there are some inconsistencies in how models are specified and predictions are made.

For example, many models have only one method of specifying the model (e.g. formula method only)

```
> ## only one way here:
> rpart(y ~ ., data = dat)
>
> ## and both ways here:
> lda(y ~ ., data = dat)
>
> lda(x = predictors, y = outcome)
```

Generating Class Probabilities Using Different Packages

obj Class	Package	predict Function Syntax
lda	MASS	<pre>predict(obj) (no options needed)</pre>
glm	stats	<pre>predict(obj, type = "response")</pre>
gbm	gbm	<pre>predict(obj, type = "response", n.trees)</pre>
mda	mda	<pre>predict(obj, type = "posterior")</pre>
rpart	rpart	<pre>predict(obj, type = "prob")</pre>
Weka	RWeka	<pre>predict(obj, type = "probability")</pre>
LogitBoost	caTools	<pre>predict(obj, type = "raw", nIter)</pre>

The caret Package

The caret package was developed to:

- create a unified interface for modeling and prediction (interfaces to 230 models)
- streamline model tuning using resampling
- provide a variety of "helper" functions and classes for day-to-day model building tasks
- increase computational efficiency using parallel processing

First commits within Pfizer: 6/2005, First version on CRAN: 10/2007

Website: http://topepo.github.io/caret/

JSS Paper: http://www.jstatsoft.org/v28/i05/paper

Model List: http://topepo.github.io/caret/bytag.html

Many computing sections in APM

Multinomial Model

We will use caret's interface to the multinom function in the nnet package.

We'll use the formula method so that we don't worry about factors predictors and eliminate one data point that has a missing values for Mass.

Multinomial Model

```
> mnr_tune
Penalized Multinomial Regression
82 samples
12 predictors
3 classes: 'bobcat', 'coyote', 'gray_fox'
Pre-processing: centered (24), scaled (24)
Resampling: Cross-Validated (10 fold, repeated 5 times)
Summary of sample sizes: 74, 74, 74, 73, 73, 73, ...
Resampling results:
 Accuracy Kappa
 0.5210794 0.2089317
Tuning parameter 'decay' was held constant at a value of 0
> predict(mnr_tune, head(test_data)) ## or type = "prob"
[1] gray_fox gray_fox bobcat gray_fox bobcat bobcat
Levels: bobcat covote gray_fox
```

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Variable Importance

```
> print(varImp(mnr_tune, scale = FALSE), top = 10)
multinom variable importance
 only 10 most important variables shown (out of 24)
                       Overall
`Length:ropey`
                         28.87
`Locationmiddle:Mass`
                      28.85
`segmented:Mass`
                      25.36
                         21.06
ropey
`Locationoff_edge:Mass` 18.81
Locationoff_edge
                       18.12
SiteYOLA
                         17.53
                         16.81
Mass
Locationmiddle
                       13.89
                         12.92
scrape
```

Those Missing Data

We have ignored the predictors with missing data so far.

As a pre-processing method, we will use an imputation method to fill in their data prior to modeling.

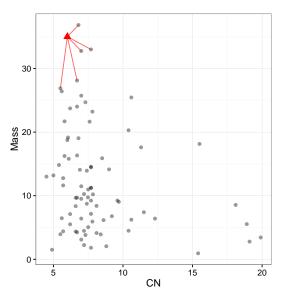
It is crucial that we do this inside of every resample so that the performance estimates account for the variation generated by the imputation method.

There are several methods for imputing the data. We will use a 5-nearest neighbor model *for imputing* each of the predictors that had missing data.

Suppose a model contained three terms (Mass, CN, and Length). If Length were missing, we would find the most similar scats in the other two dimensions and use these to impute with their average Length.

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K–Nearest Neighbors Imputation



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Multinomial Model – All Data

```
> full_form <- paste("Species ~ Month + Year + Site + Age + Number + ",
                     "Length*ropey + (Location + segmented)*Mass + ",
+
                     "flat + scrape + ".
                     "TI + d13C + d15N + CN + Diameter + Taper")
> full_form <- as.formula(full form)</pre>
> set.seed(2592)
> mnr_impute <- train(full_form, data = train_data,
                      method = "multinom".
+
                      ## Add imputation to the list of pre-processing steps
                      preProc = c("center", "scale", "knnImpute", "zv"),
                      tuneGrid = data.frame(decay = 0),
                      trControl = ctrl.
                      ## do not remove missing data before modeling
                      na.action = na.pass,
                      trace = FALSE)
```

Multinomial Model – All Data

```
> mnr_impute
Penalized Multinomial Regression
70 samples
18 predictors
3 classes: 'bobcat', 'coyote', 'gray_fox'
Pre-processing: centered (30), scaled (30), nearest neighbor imputation (30)
Resampling: Cross-Validated (10 fold, repeated 5 times)
Summary of sample sizes: 75, 75, 75, 74, 74, 74, ...
Resampling results:
 Accuracy Kappa
 0.6358968 0.4144155
Tuning parameter 'decay' was held constant at a value of 0
```

Variable Importance

```
> print(varImp(mnr_impute, scale = FALSE), top = 10)
multinom variable importance
  only 10 most important variables shown (out of 30)
              Overall
`Length:ropey`
               161.97
ropey
               150.91
CN
               119.29
flat
         84.24
Locationmiddle 74.31
           62.37
segmented
d15N
              60.34
d13C
              60.08
Length
             56.90
SiteYOLA
                56.26
```

Resampled Confusion Matrix

Model Tuning

Now suppose we want to see if regularizing the regression coefficients will result in better fits

The glmnet package can be used to build a similar model using L_1 or L_2 regularization (or a mixture of the two).

- ullet an L_1 penalty can have the effect of setting coefficients to zero
- ullet L_2 regularization is basically ridge regression where the magnitude of the coefficients are dampened to avoid overfitting

For a glmnet model, we need to determine the total amount regularization (called lambda) and the mixture of L_1 and L_2 (called alpha).

alpha=1 is a lasso model while alpha=0 is ridge regression (aka weight decay).

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Over–Fitting

Over–fitting occurs when a model inappropriately picks up on trends in the training set that do not generalize to new samples.

When this occurs, assessments of the model based on the training set can show good performance that does not reproduce in future samples.

Some models have specific "knobs" to control over-fitting

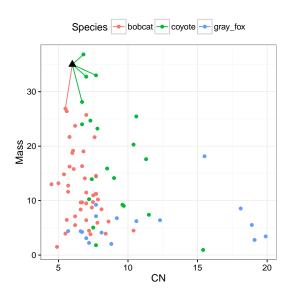
- neighborhood size in nearest neighbor models is an example
- the number if splits in a tree model

Often, poor choices for these parameters can result in over-fitting

For example, the next slide shows a data set with two predictors. We want to be able to produce a line (i.e. decision boundary) that differentiates two classes of data.

A new point is to be predicted. A 5-nearest neighbor model is illustrated.

Example: K-Nearest Neighbors Classification



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Over–Fitting

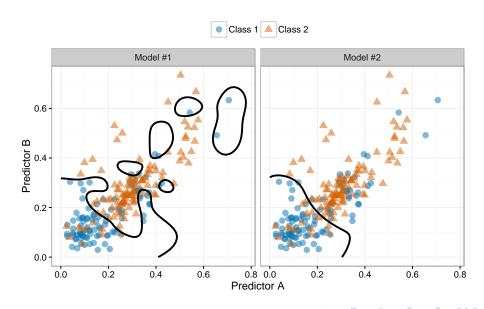
On the next slide, two classification boundaries are shown for the a different model type not yet discussed.

The difference in the two panels is solely due to different choices in tuning parameters.

One over-fits the training data.

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Two Model Fits



The Big Picture

We think that resampling will give us honest estimates of future performance, but there is still the issue of which model to select.

One algorithm to select models:

Define sets of model parameter values to evaluate;

for each parameter set do

for each resampling iteration do

Hold-out specific samples ;

Pre-process the data and fit the model on the remainder;

Predict the hold-out samples;

end

Calculate the average performance across hold-out predictions

end

Determine the optimal parameter set;

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Model Tuning

train can incorporate the model tuning and new pre–processing techniques. For model tuning, there are two interfaces

- Let train derive a grid of points to test using the tuneLength argument
- Use the tuneGrid argument to dictate the exact set of candidate models to evaluate during resampling. The column names should match the tuning parameters.

To be clear: we are evaluating $114 \times 50 = 5700$ models just to determine the values of alpha and lambda.

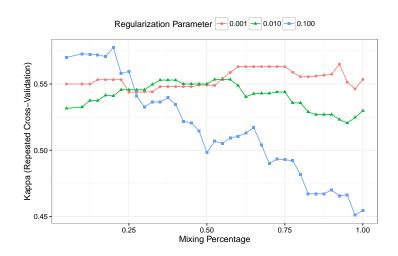
Model #5701 is on the entire training set.

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Model Tuning

```
> set.seed(2592) ## use the same resamples as mnr_impute
> glmn_tune <- train(full_form, data = train_data,
                     method = "glmnet",
+
                     preProc = c("center", "scale", "knnImpute", "zv"),
                     ## pass in the tuning grid
                     tuneGrid = glmn_grid,
                     ## pick the sub-model with the best kappa value
                     metric = "Kappa".
                     na.action = na.pass,
                     trControl = ctrl)
> ## best sub-model results:
> glmn_tune$bestTune
   alpha lambda
18 0.2 0.1
> getTrainPerf(glmn_tune)
 TrainAccuracy TrainKappa method
     0.7558413 0.5775722 glmnet
```

glmnet Profile



Resampled Confusion Matrix

Model Comparison

Since the glmnet and second multinom fits used the same training set and resamples, we get a set of 50 *paired* comparisons in Kappa. Here are 15 examples:

		${\tt multinom}$	glmnet	Difference	
Fold01	Rep1	0.304	0.294	-0.010	
Fold01	Rep2	0.600	0.789	0.189	
Fold01	Rep3	0.250	0.308	0.058	
Fold01	Rep4	0.413	0.786	0.373	
Fold01	Rep5	0.368	0.556	0.187	
Fold02	Rep1	0.742	0.407	-0.335	
Fold02	Rep2	0.158	0.200	0.042	
Fold02	Rep3	0.471	0.800	0.329	
Fold02	Rep4	0.048	0.600	0.552	
Fold02	Rep5	0.400	0.800	0.400	
Fold03	Rep1	-0.200	0.368	0.568	
Fold03	Rep2	0.304	0.579	0.275	
Fold03	Rep3	0.500	0.647	0.147	
Fold03	Rep4	0.273	0.789	0.517	
Fold03	Rep5	0.810	0.800	-0.010	

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Model Comparison

We can use these to formally test if the model fit improved:

```
> compare_models(glmn_tune, mnr_impute, metric = "Kappa")
One Sample t-test

data: x
t = 4.1288, df = 49, p-value = 0.0001414
alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
    0.0837440 0.2425694
sample estimates:
mean of x
0.1631567
```

The resamples function can be used to compare and visualize performance from many different models with the same resamples.

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Fitting Other Models

The value of train is to be able to fit different models without learning the syntactical minutiae for each modeling package.

For example, to fit a bagged CART tree:

Fitting Other Models

 \dots or a K-nearest neighbor model:

Preprocessing Too!

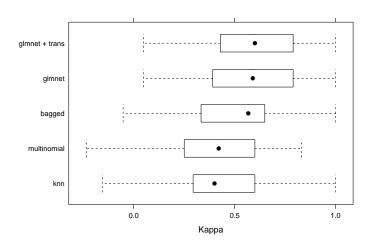
... using different preprocessing the predictors:

Collecting the Results

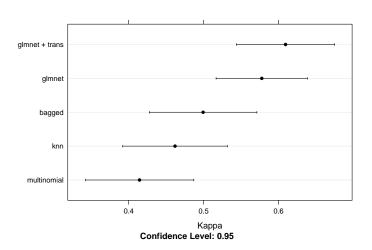
As previously mentioned, the **resamples** function can be used to compare multiple models

```
> rs <- resamples(list(knn = knn_tune, bagged = bagged_tree,
                      multinomial = mnr_impute, glmnet = glmn_tune,
+
+
                      "glmnet + trans" = transformed))
> summarv(rs. metric = "Kappa")
Call:
summary.resamples(object = rs, metric = "Kappa")
Models: knn, bagged, multinomial, glmnet, glmnet + trans
Number of resamples: 50
Kappa
                  Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's
              -0.15380 0.2975 0.4000 0.4618 0.6000 1.0000
knn
bagged
             -0.05263  0.3364  0.5673  0.4993  0.6486  1.0000
multinomial -0.23530 0.2557 0.4208 0.4144 0.6000 0.8305
glmnet
            0.04762 0.3953 0.5895 0.5776 0.7885 1.0000
                                                              0
glmnet + trans 0.04762 0.4603 0.6000 0.6092 0.7895 1.0000
```

Resampling Distributions



Resampling Distributions



Test Set Results

Let's predict the test set

\$ gray_fox: num 0.898 0.788 0.118 0.52 0.197 ...

Test Set Results

```
> confusionMatrix(test_pred, test_data$Species)
```

Confusion Matrix and Statistics

Reference

Prediction	bobcat	coyote	gray_fox
bobcat	14	4	1
coyote	0	3	0
gray_fox	0	0	5

Overall Statistics

Accuracy: 0.8148

95% CI : (0.6192, 0.937)

No Information Rate : 0.5185 P-Value [Acc > NIR] : 0.001421

Kappa: 0.6723

Mcnemar's Test P-Value : NA

Statistics by Class:

	Class:	bobcat (Class:	coyote	Class:	gray_fox
Sensitivity		1.0000		0.4286		0.8333
Specificity		0.6154		1.0000		1.0000
Pos Pred Value		0.7368		1.0000		1.0000
Neg Pred Value		1.0000		0.8333		0.9545
Prevalence		0.5185		0.2593		0.2222
Detection Rate		0.5185		0.1111		0.1852
Detection Prevalence		0.7037		0.1111		0.1852
Balanced Accuracy		0.8077		0.7143		0.9167

Session Info

```
> sessionInfo()
R version 3.3.1 (2016-06-21)
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin13.4.0 (64-bit)
Running under: OS X 10.11.5 (El Capitan)
locale:
[1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/C/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8
attached base packages:
[1] parallel grid
                                   graphics grDevices utils
                                                                 datasets
                        stats
[8] methods
              hase
other attached packages:
 [1] e1071 1.6-7
                                      ipred 0.9-5
 [3] glmnet_2.0-5
                                     Matrix 1.2-6
 [5] doMC_1.3.4
                                      iterators 1.0.8
 [7] foreach 1.4.3
                                      mlbench 2.1-1
 [9] vcd 1.4-1
                                     ggthemes_3.0.3
                                     RColorBrewer 1.1-2
[11] kernlab_0.9-24
[13] inTrees_1.1
                                     C50_0.1.0-24
[15] plyr_1.8.4
                                     ROSE 0.0-3
[17] DMwR_0.4.1
                                      proxy_0.4-16
[19] AppliedPredictiveModeling_1.1-6 partykit_1.0-5
[21] rpart_4.1-10
                                     nnet 7.3-12
[23] Hmisc 3.17-4
                                     Formula 1.2-1
[25] survival_2.39-4
                                     caret_6.0-71
[27] ggplot2_2.1.0
                                     lattice 0.20-33
[29] pROC_1.8
                                     knitr 1.13
loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
 [1] nlme 3.1-128
                         bitops_1.0-6
                                              pbkrtest 0.4-6
                         tools_3.3.1
 [4] xts_0.9-7
                                              KernSmooth_2.23-15
 [7] mgcv 1.8-12
                         colorspace_1.2-6
                                             arules_1.4-1
```

Kuhn (Pfizer)

Scat!

Backup/Extra Slides

Parallel Processing

Since we are fitting a lot of independent models over different tuning parameters and sampled data sets, there is no reason to do these sequentially.

R has many facilities for splitting computations up onto multiple cores or machines

See Tierney et al (2009, Journal of Statistical Software) for a recent review of these methods

foreach and caret

To loop through the models and data sets, caret uses the foreach package, which parallelizes **for** loops.

foreach has a number of *parallel backends* which allow various technologies to be used in conjunction with the package.

On CRAN, these are the doSomething packages, such as doMC, doMPI, doSMP and others.

For example, doMC uses the multicore package, which forks processes to split computations (for unix and OS X). doParallel works well for Windows (I'm told)

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foreach and caret

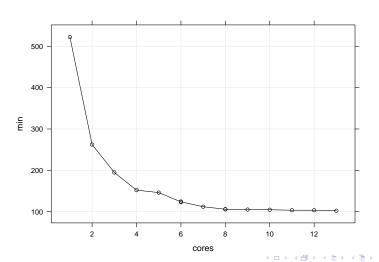
To use parallel processing in caret, no changes are needed when calling train.

The parallel technology must be *registered* with **foreach** prior to calling **train**:

```
> library(doMC)  # on unix, linux or OS X
> ## library(doParallel) # windows and others
> registerDoMC(cores = 2)
```

Training Time (min)

 $50\ bootstraps$ of a SVM model with $1000\ samples$ and $400\ predictors$ and the multicore package



Speed-Up

