

Package ‘fairGNN’

October 26, 2025

Title Fairness-Aware Gated Neural Networks

Version 0.1.0

Description Tools for training and analysing fairness-aware gated neural networks for subgroup-aware prediction and interpretation in clinical datasets. Methods draw on prior work in mixture-of-experts neural networks by Jordan and Jacobs (1994) <[doi:10.1007/978-1-4471-2097-1_113](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4471-2097-1_113)>, fairness-aware learning by Hardt, Price, and Srebro (2016) <[doi:10.48550/arXiv.1610.02413](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1610.02413)>, and personalised treatment prediction for depression by Iniesta, Stahl, and McGuffin (2016) <[doi:10.1016/j.jpsychires.2016.03.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2016.03.016)>.

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RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Imports dplyr, tibble, ggplot2, readr, pROC, magrittr, tidyverse, purrr, utils, stats, ggalluvial, tidyselect

Suggests knitr, torch, testthat, readxl, rmarkdown

VignetteBuilder knitr

URL <https://github.com/rhysholland/fairGNN>

BugReports <https://github.com/rhysholland/fairGNN/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

SystemRequirements Optional 'LibTorch' backend; install via
torch::install_torch().

NeedsCompilation no

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<i>analyse_experts</i>	<i>Analyse and Visualise Expert Network Specialisation</i>
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Description

This function analyses the input weights of the expert sub-networks to determine which features are most important for each subgroup. It supports datasets with two or more subgroups.

Usage

```
analyse_experts(
  gnn_results,
  prepared_data,
  group_mappings,
  top_n_features = 10,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

<i>gnn_results</i>	A list object from <i>train_gnn()</i> .
<i>prepared_data</i>	A list object from <i>prepare_data()</i> .
<i>group_mappings</i>	A named list mapping numeric codes to labels.
<i>top_n_features</i>	The number of top features to visualise.
<i>verbose</i>	Logical, whether to print progress messages (default FALSE).

Value

A list containing the importance tables and plots.

analyse_gnn_results *Analyse and Visualize GNN Results*

Description

Generates plots and statistical tests for interpreting the GNN model results.

Usage

```
analyse_gnn_results(  
  gnn_results,  
  prepared_data,  
  group_mappings,  
  create_roc_plot = TRUE,  
  create_calibration_plot = TRUE,  
  analyse_gate_weights = TRUE,  
  analyse_gate_entropy = TRUE,  
  verbose = FALSE  
)
```

Arguments

gnn_results	A list object from the <code>train_gnn()</code> function.
prepared_data	A list object from the <code>prepare_data()</code> function.
group_mappings	A named list that maps the numeric group codes back to their character labels for plotting (e.g., <code>list('0' = "Male", '1' = "Female")</code>).
create_roc_plot	Boolean, if TRUE, generates and returns a ROC curve plot.
create_calibration_plot	Boolean, if TRUE, generates and returns a calibration plot.
analyse_gate_weights	Boolean, if TRUE, performs gate weight analysis (density plot and t-test).
analyse_gate_entropy	Boolean, if TRUE, performs gate entropy analysis.
verbose	Logical, whether to print progress messages (default FALSE).

Value

A list containing ggplot objects and analysis tables.

`analyse_gnn_results_plus`

Analyse GNN Results (+ Gate Summary Tables)

Description

Wraps `analyse_gnn_results()` and augments the return object with `gate_weight_summary` and `gate_entropy_summary` computed from `gnn_results$gate_weights`.

Usage

```
analyse_gnn_results_plus(gnn_results, prepared_data, group_mappings, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>gnn_results</code>	A list from <code>train_gnn()</code> (must include \$ <code>gate_weights</code>).
<code>prepared_data</code>	A list from <code>prepare_data()</code> .
<code>group_mappings</code>	A named vector/list mapping group codes to labels.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed through to <code>analyse_gnn_results()</code> .

Value

The list returned by `analyse_gnn_results()` with two extra elements: `gate_weight_summary` and `gate_entropy_summary`.

`plot_sankey`

Create a Sankey Plot to Visualise Patient Routing

Description

Create a Sankey Plot to Visualise Patient Routing

Usage

```
plot_sankey(
  raw_data,
  gnn_results,
  expert_results,
  group_mappings,
  group_var,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

<code>raw_data</code>	The original, unscaled dataframe (must contain the features referenced by expert analysis).
<code>gnn_results</code>	The results object from <code>train_gnn()</code> (uses <code>\$final_results</code> and <code>\$gate_weights</code>).
<code>expert_results</code>	The results object from <code>analyse_experts()</code> .
<code>group_mappings</code>	A named list or named character vector mapping <i>codes</i> to <i>labels</i> (e.g., <code>c("0"="Male", "1"="Female")</code>). If provided in the reverse orientation (<i>labels</i> → <i>codes</i>), or unnamed, this function will normalise it automatically.
<code>group_var</code>	A string with the column name of the sensitive attribute in the <code>raw_data</code> .
<code>verbose</code>	Logical, whether to print progress messages (default FALSE).

Value

A ggplot object representing the Sankey diagram.

`prepare_data`

Prepare Data for GNN Training

Description

This function takes a raw dataframe, cleans it, defines the outcome and group variables, and scales the feature matrix.

Usage

```
prepare_data(
  data,
  outcome_var,
  group_var,
  group_mappings,
  cols_to_remove = NULL
)
```

Arguments

<code>data</code>	A dataframe containing the raw data.
<code>outcome_var</code>	A string with the column name of the binary outcome (must be 0 or 1).
<code>group_var</code>	A string with the column name of the sensitive attribute.
<code>group_mappings</code>	A named list that maps the values in <code>group_var</code> to numeric codes (0, 1, 2...). For example, <code>list("Male" = 0, "Female" = 1)</code> .
<code>cols_to_remove</code>	A character vector of column names to exclude from the feature matrix (e.g., IDs, highly collinear vars).

Value

A list containing:

X	The scaled feature matrix.
y	The numeric outcome vector.
group	The numeric group vector.
feature_names	The names of the features used.
subject_ids	A vector of subject IDs, if a 'subjectid' column exists.

Examples

```
# Fictional data example
my_data <- data.frame(
  subjectid = 1:10,
  remission = sample(0:1, 10, replace = TRUE),
  gender = sample(c("M", "F"), 10, replace = TRUE),
  feature1 = rnorm(10),
  feature2 = rnorm(10)
)

prepared_data <- prepare_data(
  data = my_data,
  outcome_var = "remission",
  group_var = "gender",
  group_mappings = list("M" = 0, "F" = 1),
  cols_to_remove = c("subjectid")
)
```

train_gnn

Train and Evaluate the Gated Neural Network (robust splits + safe ROC)

Description

Train and Evaluate the Gated Neural Network (robust splits + safe ROC)

Usage

```
train_gnn(
  prepared_data,
  hyper_grid,
  num_repeats = 20,
  epochs = 300,
  output_dir = tempdir(),
  run_tuning = TRUE,
  best_params = NULL,
  save_outputs = FALSE,
```

```
    seed = NULL,  
    verbose = FALSE  
)
```

Arguments

<code>prepared_data</code>	List from <code>prepare_data()</code> : X, y, group, feature_names, subject_ids
<code>hyper_grid</code>	data.frame with columns: lr, hidden_dim, dropout_rate, lambda, temperature
<code>num_repeats</code>	Integer, repeated train/test splits per combo & final run
<code>epochs</code>	Integer, epochs per run
<code>output_dir</code>	Directory to write csv/rds (defaults to <code>tempdir()</code>)
<code>run_tuning</code>	Logical, run hyperparameter search
<code>best_params</code>	data.frame/list with lr, hidden_dim, dropout_rate, lambda, temperature if <code>run_tuning=FALSE</code>
<code>save_outputs</code>	Logical, whether to save outputs to disk (default FALSE)
<code>seed</code>	Optional seed for reproducible data splits. Defaults to NULL to respect the current RNG state.
<code>verbose</code>	Logical, whether to print progress messages (default FALSE)

Value

```
list(final_results, gate_weights, expert_weights, performance_summary, aif360_data, tuning_results)
```

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