

# 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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**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

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

**Suggests** knitr, torch, testthat, readxl, rmarkdown

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**URL** <https://github.com/rhys holland/fairGNN>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/rhys holland/fairGNN/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**SystemRequirements** Optional 'LibTorch' backend; install via torch::install\_torch().

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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analyse_experts	<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

- gnn\_results      A list object from train\_gnn().
- prepared\_data    A list object from prepare\_data().
- group\_mappings   A named list mapping numeric codes to labels.
- top\_n\_features   The number of top features to visualise.
- verbose           Logical, whether to print progress messages (default FALSE).

Value

A list containing the importance tables and plots.

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analyse\_gnn\_results      *Analyse and Visualize GNN Results*

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## 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 train_gnn() function.
prepared_data	A list object from the prepare_data() function.
group_mappings	A named list that maps the numeric group codes back to their character labels for plotting (e.g., list('0' = "Male", '1' = "Female")).
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.

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 analyse\_gnn\_results\_plus

*Analyse GNN Results (+ Gate Summary Tables)*


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### 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

gnn\_results      A list from train\_gnn() (must include \$gate\_weights).  
 prepared\_data    A list from prepare\_data().  
 group\_mappings   A named vector/list mapping group codes to labels.  
 ...              Additional arguments passed through to analyse\_gnn\_results().

### Value

The list returned by analyse\_gnn\_results() with two extra elements: gate\_weight\_summary and gate\_entropy\_summary.

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 plot\_sankey

*Create a Sankey Plot to Visualise Patient Routing*


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### 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**

raw_data	The original, unscaled dataframe (must contain the features referenced by expert analysis).
gnn_results	The results object from <code>train_gnn()</code> (uses <code>\$final_results</code> and <code>\$gate_weights</code> ).
expert_results	The results object from <code>analyse_experts()</code> .
group_mappings	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 (labels→codes), or unnamed, this function will normalise it automatically.
group_var	A string with the column name of the sensitive attribute in the <code>raw_data</code> .
verbose	Logical, whether to print progress messages (default FALSE).

**Value**

A ggplot object representing the Sankey diagram.

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prepare_data	<i>Prepare Data for GNN Training</i>
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**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**

data	A dataframe containing the raw data.
outcome_var	A string with the column name of the binary outcome (must be 0 or 1).
group_var	A string with the column name of the sensitive attribute.
group_mappings	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> .
cols_to_remove	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")
)
```

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train_gnn	<i>Train and Evaluate the Gated Neural Network (robust splits + safe ROC)</i>
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**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**

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