Package 'bartCause'

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Imports dbarts (>= 0.9-16), methods, stats, graphics, parallel, utils, grDevices

Suggests testthat (>= 0.9-0), lme4, rpart, tmle

Description Contains a variety of methods to generate typical causal inference estimates using Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART) as the underlying regression model (Hill (2012) <doi:10.1198/jcgs.2010.08162>).

License GPL (≥ 2)

NeedsCompilation no

URL https://github.com/vdorie/bartCause

BugReports https://github.com/vdorie/bartCause/issues

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R topics documented:

partc	 	2
partc-generics	 '	7
partc-plot	 1	1
summary.bartcFit	 1	4

16

Index

bartc

Description

Fits a collection of treatment and response models using the Bayesian Additive Regresssion Trees (BART) algorithm, producing estimates of treatment effects.

Usage

```
bartc(response, treatment, confounders, data, subset, weights,
    method.rsp = c("bart", "tmle", "p.weight"),
    method.trt = c("bart", "glm", "none"),
    estimand = c("ate", "att", "atc"),
    group.by = NULL,
    commonSup.rule = c("none", "sd", "chisq"),
    commonSup.cut = c(NA_real_, 1, 0.05),
    args.rsp = list(), args.trt = list(),
    p.scoreAsCovariate = TRUE, use.ranef = TRUE, group.effects = FALSE,
    crossvalidate = FALSE,
    keepCall = TRUE, verbose = TRUE,
    ...)
```

Arguments

response	A vector of the outcome variable, or a reference to such in the data argument. Can be continuous or binary.
treatment	A vector of the binary treatment variable, or a reference to data.
confounders	A matrix or data frame of covariates to be used in estimating the treatment and response model. Can also be the right-hand-side of a formula (e.g. $x1 + x2 +$). The data argument will be searched if supplied.
data	An optional data frame or named list containing the response, treatment, and confounders.
subset	An optional vector using to subset the data. Can refer to data if provided.
weights	An optional vector of population weights used in model fitting and estimating the treatment effect. Can refer to data if provided.
method.rsp	A character string specifying which method to use when fitting the response sur- face and estimating the treatment effect. Options are: "bart" - fit the response surface with BART and take the average of the individual treatment effect esti- mates, "p.weight" - fit the response surface with BART but compute the treat- ment effect estimate by using a propensity score weighted sum of individual effects, and "tmle" - as above, but further adjust the individual estimates using the Targetted Minimum Loss based Estimation (TMLE) adjustment.

bartc

method.trt	A character string specifying which method to use when fitting the treatment assingment mechanism, or a vector/matrix of propensity scores. Character string options are: "bart" - fit BART directly to the treatment variable, "glm" - fit a generalized linear model with a binomial response and all confounders added linearly, and "none" - do no propensity score estimation. Cannot be "none" if the response model requires propensity scores. When supplied as a matrix, it should be of dimensions equal to the number of observations times the number of samples used in any response model.	
estimand	A character string specifying which causal effect to target. Options are "ate" - average treatment effect, "att" - average treatment effect on the treated, and "atc" - average treatment effect on the controls.	
group.by	An optional factor that, when present, causes the treatment effect estimate to be calculated within each group.	
commonSup.rule	Rule for exclusion of observations lacking in common support. Options are "none" - no suppression, "sd" - exlude units whose predicted counterfactual standard deviation is extreme compared to the maximum standard deviation under those units' observed treatment condition, where extreme refers to the distribution of all standard deviations of observed treatment conditions, "chisq" - exclude observations according to ratio of the variance of posterior predicted counterfactual to the posterior variance of the observed condition, having a Chi Squared distribution with one degree of freedom under the null hypothesis of have equal distributions.	
commonSup.cut	Cuttoffs for commonSup.rule. Ignored for "none", when commonSup.rule is "sd", refers to how many standard deviations of the distribution of posterior variance for counterfactuals an observation can be above the maximum of posterior variances for that treatment condition. When commonSup.rule is "chisq", is the p value used for rejection of the hypothesis of equal variances.	
p.scoreAsCovar	iate	
	A logical such that when TRUE, the propensity score is added to the response model as a covariate.	
use.ranef	Logical specifying if group.by variable - when present - should be included as a "random" or "fixed" effect. If true, rbart will be used for BART models. Using random effects for treatment assignment mechanisms of type "glm" require that the lme4 package be available.	
group.effects	Logical specifying if effects should be calculated within groups if the group.by variable is provided. Response methods of "tmle" and "p.weight" are such that if group effects are calculated, then the population effect is not provided.	
keepCall	A logical such that when FALSE, the call to bartc is not kept. This can reduce the amount of information printed by summary when passing in data as literals.	
crossvalidate	One of TRUE, FALSE, "trt", or "rsp". Enables code to attempt to estimate the optimal end-node sensitivity parameter. This uses a rudimentary Bayesian optimization routine and can be extremely slow.	
verbose	A logical that when TRUE prints information as the model is fit.	
args.rsp,args.trt,		
	ments passed to the main function as will be used in both models. args.rsp	

and args.trt can be used to set parameters in a single fit, and will override other values. See glm and bart2 for reference.

Details

bartc represents a collection of methods that primarily use the Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART) algorithm to estimate causal treatment effects with binary treatment variables and continuous outcomes. This requires models to be fit to the response surface (distribution of the response as a function of treatment and confounders, p(Y(1), Y(0)|X) and optionally for treatment assignment mechanism (probability of receiving treatment, i.e. propensity score, Pr(Z = 1|X)). The response surface model is used to impute counterfactuals, which may then be adjusted together with the propensity score to produce estimates of effects.

Similar to 1m, models can be specified symbolically. When the data term is present, it will be added to the search path for the response, treatment, and confounders variables. The confounders must be specified devoid of any "left hand side", as they appear in both of the models.

Response Surface

The response surface methods included are:

- "bart" use BART to fit the response surface and produce individual estimates $\hat{Y}(1)_i$ and $\hat{Y}(0)_i$. Treatment effect estimates are obtained by averaging the difference of these across the population of interest.
- "p.weight" individual effects are esimated as in "bart", but treatment effect estimates are obtained by using a propensity score weighted average. For the average treatment effect on the treated, these weights are p(z_i|x_i)/(∑z/n). For ATC, replace z with 1 z. For ATE, "p.weight" is equal to "bart".
- "tmle" individual effects are esimated as in "bart" and a weighted average is taken as in "p.weight", however the response surface estimates and propensity scores are corrected by using the Targetted Minimum Loss based Estimation method.

Treatment Assignment

The treatment assignment models are:

- "bart" fit a binary BART directly to the treatment using all the confounders.
- "none" no modeling is doing. Only applies when using response method "bart" and p.scoreAsCovariate is FALSE.
- "glm" fit a binomial generalized linear model with logistic link and confounders included as linear terms.
- Finally, a vector or matrix of propensity scores can be supplied. Propensity score matrices should have a number of rows equal to the number of observations in the data and a number of columns equal to the number of posterior samples.

Generics

For a fitted model, the easiest way to analyze the resulting fit is to use the generics fitted, extract, and predict to analyze specific quantities and summary to aggregate those values into targets (e.g. ATE, ATT, or ATC).

Common Support Rules

Common support, or that the probability of receiving all treatment conditions is non-zero within every area of the covariate space (P(Z = 1|X = x) > 0 for all x in the inferential sample), can be enforced by excluding observations with high posterior uncertainty. bartc supports two common support rules through commonSup.rule argument:

- "sd" observations are cut from the inferential sample if: $s_i^{f(1-z)} > m_z + a \times sd(s_j^{f(z)})$, where $s_i^{f(1-z)}$ is the posterior standard deviation of the predicted counterfactual for observation *i*, $s_j^f(z)$ is the posterior standard deviation of the prediction for the observed treatment condition of objservation *j*, $sd(s_j^{f(z)})$ is the empirical standard deviation of those quantities, and $m_z = max_j\{s_j^{f(z)}\}$ for all *j* in the same treatment group, i.e. $Z_j = z$. *a* is a constant to be passed in using commonSup.cut and its default is 1.
- "chisq" observations are cut from the inferential sample if: $(s_i^{f(1-z)}/s_i^{f(z)})^2 > q_{\alpha}$, where s_i are as above and q_{α} , is the upper α percentile of a χ^2 distribution with one degree of freedom, corresponding to a null hypothesis of equal variance. The default for α is 0.05, and it is specified using the commonSup. cut parameter.

Special Arguments

Some default arguments are unconvential or are passed in a unique fashion.

- If n. chains is missing, unlike in bart2 a default of 10 is used.
- For method.rsp == "tmle", a special arg.trt of posteriorOfTMLE determines if the TMLE correction should be applied to each posterior sample (TRUE), or just the posterior mean (FALSE).

Missing Data

Missingness is allowed only in the response. If some response values are NA, the BART models will be trained just for where data are available and those values will be used to make predictions for the missing observations. Missing observations are not used when calculating statistics for assessing common support, although they may still be excluded on those grounds. Further, missing observations may not be compatible with response method "tmle".

Value

bartc returns an object of class bartcFit. Information about the object can be derived by using methods summary, plot_sigma, plot_est, plot_indiv, and plot_support. Numerical quantities are recovered with the fitted and extract generics. Predictions for new observations are obtained with predict.

Objects of class bartcFit are lists containing items:

method.rsp	character string specifying the method used to fit the response surface
method.trt	character string specifying the method used to fit the treatment assignment mechanism
estimand	character string specifying the targetted causal effect
fit.rsp	object containing the fitted response model
data.rsp	dbartsData object used when fitting the response model

fit.trt	object containing the fitted treatment model
group.by	optional factor vector containing the groups in which treatment effects are esti- mated
est	matrix or array of posterior samples of the treatment effect estimate
p.score	the vector of propensity scores used as a covariate in the response model, when applicable
<pre>samples.p.score</pre>	
	matrix or array of posterior samples of the propensity score, when applicable
mu.hat.obs	samples from the posterior of the expected value for individual responses under the observed treatment regime
mu.hat.cf	samples from the posterior of the expected value for individual responses under the counterfactual treatment
name.trt	character string giving the name of the treatment variable in the data of fit.rsp
trt	vector of treatment assignments
call	how bartc was called
n.chains	number of independent posterior sampler chains in response model
commonSup.rule	common support rule used for suppressing observations
commonSup.cut	common support parameter used to set cutoff when suppression observations
sd.obs	vector of standard deviations of individual posterior predictors for observed treatment conditions
sd.cf	vector of standard deviations of individual posterior predictors for counterfactu- als
commonSup.sub	logical vector expressing which observations are used when estimating treat- ment effects
use.ranef	logical for whether ranef models were used; only added when true
group.effects	logical for whether group-level estimates are made; only added when true
seed	a random seed for use when drawing from the posterior predictive distribution

Author(s)

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References

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bartc-generics

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See Also

bart2

Examples

```
## fit a simple linear model
n <- 100L
beta.z <- c(.75, -0.5, 0.25)
beta.y <- c(.5, 1.0, -1.5)
sigma <- 2
set.seed(725)
x \leftarrow matrix(rnorm(3 \times n), n, 3)
tau <- rgamma(1L, 0.25 * 16 * rgamma(1L, 1 * 32, 32), 16)
p.score <- pnorm(x %*% beta.z)</pre>
z <- rbinom(n, 1, p.score)</pre>
mu.0 <- x %*% beta.y
mu.1 <- x %*% beta.y + tau</pre>
y <- mu.0 * (1 - z) + mu.1 * z + rnorm(n, 0, sigma)
# low parameters only for example
fit <- bartc(y, z, x, n.samples = 100L, n.burn = 15L, n.chains = 2L)</pre>
summary(fit)
## example to show refitting under the common support rule
fit2 <- refit(fit, commonSup.rule = "sd")</pre>
fit3 <- bartc(y, z, x, subset = fit2$commonSup.sub,</pre>
               n.samples = 100L, n.burn = 15L, n.chains = 2L)
```

bartc-generics Generic Methods for bartcFit Objects

Description

Visual exploratory data analysis and model fitting diagnostics for causal inference models fit using the bartc function.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'bartcFit'
fitted(object,
       type = c("pate", "sate", "cate", "mu.obs", "mu.cf", "mu.0",
                "mu.1", "y.cf", "y.0", "y.1", "icate", "ite",
                "p.score", "p.weights"),
       sample = c("inferential", "all"),
       ...)
extract(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'bartcFit'
extract(object,
        type = c("pate", "sate", "cate", "mu.obs", "mu.cf", "mu.0",
                 "mu.1", "y.cf", "y.0", "y.1", "icate", "ite",
                 "p.score", "p.weights"),
        sample = c("inferential", "all"),
        combineChains = TRUE,
        ...)
## S3 method for class 'bartcFit'
predict(object, newdata,
        group.by,
        type = c("mu", "y", "mu.0", "mu.1", "y.0", "y.1", "icate", "ite",
                 "p.score"),
        combineChains = TRUE,
        ...)
refit(object, newresp, ...)
## S3 method for class 'bartcFit'
refit(object,
      newresp = NULL,
      commonSup.rule = c("none", "sd", "chisq"),
      commonSup.cut = c(NA_real_, 1, 0.05),
      ...)
```

Arguments

object	Object of class bartcFit.	
type	Which quantity to return. See details for a description of possible values.	
sample	Return information for either the "inferential" (e.g. treated observations when the estimand is att) or "all" observations.	
combineChains	If the models were fit with more than one chain, results retain the chain structure unless combineChains is TRUE.	

8

bartc-generics

newresp	Not presently used, but provided for compatibility with other definitions of the refit generic.
newdata	Data corresponding to the confounders in a bartc fit.
group.by	Optional grouping variable. See definition of group.by in bartc.
commonSup.rule,	commonSup.cut
	As in bartc.
	Additional parameters passed up the generic method chain.

Details

fitted returns the values that would serve as predictions for an object returned by the bartc function, while extract instead returns the full matrix or array of posterior samples. The possible options are:

- "pate", "sate", "cate" various target quantities; see summary
- "mu" predict only: expected value; requires user-supplied treatment variable in newdata
- "y" predict only: sample of the response; requires user-supplied treatment variable in newdata
- "mu.obs" (samples from the posterior of) the expected value under the observed treatment condition, i.e. $\hat{mu}_i(1) * z_i + \hat{mu}_i(0) * (1 z_i)$
- "mu.cf" the expected value under the counterfactual treatment condition, i.e. $\hat{mu}_i(1) * (1 z_i) + \hat{mu}_i(0) * z_i)$
- "mu.0" the expected value under the control condition
- "mu.1" the expected value under the treated condition
- "y.cf" samples of the response under the the counterfactual treatment condition, i.e. $\hat{y}_i(1 z_i)$); values are obtained by adding noise to mu.cf using the posterior predictive distribution
- "y.0" observed responses under the control together with predicted under the treated, i.e. $\hat{y}_i(1) * z_i + y(0) * (1 z_i)$
- "y.1" observed responses under the treatment together with predicted under the control, i.e. $y_i(1) * z_i + \hat{y}(0) * (1 z_i)$
- "ite" (sample) individual treatment effect estimates, i.e. $(y_i(z_i) y_i(1 z_i)) * (2z_i 1)$; uses observed responses and posterior predicted counterfactuals
- "icate" individual conditional average treatment effect estimates, i.e. $\hat{mu}_i(1) \hat{mu}_i(0)$
- "p.score" probability that each observation is assigned to the treatment group
- "p.weights" weights assigned to each individual difference if the response method is "p.weight"

refit exists to allow the same regressions to be used to calculate estimates under different common support rules. To refit those models on a subset, see the examples in bartc.

predict allows the fitted model to be used to make predictions on an out-of-sample set. Requires model to be fit with keepTrees equal to TRUE. As 'y' values are all considered out of sample, the posterior predictive distribution is always used when relevant.

For fitted, extract, and predict, a matrix, array, or vector depending on the dimensions of the result and the number of chains. For the following, when n. chains is one the dimension is dropped.

- "pate", "sate", or "cate" with fitted, a scalar; with extract, n.chains x n.samples
- "p.score" depending on the fitting method, samples may or not be present; when samples are absent, a vector is returned for both functions; when present, the same as "y".
- all other types with fitted, a vector of length equal to the number of observations (n.obs); with extract or predict, a matrix or array of dimensions n.chains x n.samples x n.obs.

For refit, an object of class bartcFit.

Author(s)

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See Also

bartc

Examples

```
## fit a simple linear model
n <- 100L
beta.z <- c(.75, -0.5, 0.25)
beta.y <- c(.5, 1.0, -1.5)
sigma <- 2
set.seed(725)
x <- matrix(rnorm(3 * n), n, 3)</pre>
tau <- rgamma(1L, 0.25 * 16 * rgamma(1L, 1 * 32, 32), 16)
p.score <- pnorm(x %*% beta.z)</pre>
z <- rbinom(n, 1, p.score)</pre>
mu.0 <- x %*% beta.y
mu.1 <- x %*% beta.y + tau</pre>
y <-mu.0 * (1 - z) + mu.1 * z + rnorm(n, 0, sigma)
# low parameters only for example
fit <- bartc(y, z, x, n.samples = 100L, n.burn = 15L, n.chains = 2L)</pre>
# compare fit to linear model
lm.fit <- lm(y ~ z + x)
plot(fitted(fit, type = "mu.obs"), fitted(lm.fit))
# rank order sample individual treatment effect estimates and plot
ites <- extract(fit, type = "ite")</pre>
ite.m <- apply(ites, 2, mean)</pre>
```

bartc-plot

bartc-plot Plot methods for bartc

Description

Visual exploratory data analysis and model fitting diagnostics for causal inference models fit using the bartc function.

Usage

```
plot_sigma(x, main = "Traceplot sigma",
           xlab = "iteration", ylab = "sigma",
           lty = 1:x$n.chains,
           ...)
plot_est(x, main = paste("Traceplot", x$estimand),
         xlab = "iteration", ylab = x$estimand,
         lty = 1:x$n.chains, col = NULL,
         ...)
plot_indiv(x, main = "Histogram Individual Quantities",
           type = c("icate", "mu.obs", "mu.cf", "mu.0",
                    "mu.1", "y.cf", "y.0", "y.1", "ite"),
           xlab = "treatment effect",
           breaks = 20,
           ...)
plot_support(x, main = "Common Support Scatterplot",
             xvar = "tree.1", yvar = "tree.2",
             sample = c("inferential", "all"),
             xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL,
             pch.trt = 21, bg.trt = "black",
             pch.ctl = pch.trt, bg.ctl = NA,
             pch.sup = pch.trt, bg.sup = NA, col.sup = "red", cex.sup = 1.5,
```

legend.x = "topleft", legend.y = NULL,
...)

Arguments

Х	Object of class bartcFit.
main	Character title of plot.
xlab	Character label of x axis. For plot_support, if NULL a default will be used.
ylab	Character label of y axis. For plot_support, if NULL a default will be used.
lty	For line plots (plot_sigma, plot_est), models use the values of lty to visually distinguish each chain.
col	For line plots, use col vector to distinguish between groups (if any).
breaks	Argument to codehist.
type	The individual quantity to be plotted. See fitted.
xvar	Variable for use on x axis. Can be one of "tree.XX", "pca.XX", "css", any individual level quantity accepted by fitted, the number or name of a column used to fit the response model, or a given vector. See below for details.
sample	Return information for either the "inferential" (e.g. treated observations when the estimand is att) or "all" observations.
yvar	Variable for use on the y axis, of the same form as xvar.
pch.trt	pch point value used when plotting treatment observations.
bg.trt	bg background value used when plotting treatment observations.
pch.ctl	pch point value used when plotting control observations.
bg.ctl	bg background value used when plotting treatment observations.
pch.sup	pch point value used when plotting suppressed observations.
bg.sup	bg background value used when plotting suppressed observations.
col.sup	col color value used when plotting suppressed observations.
cex.sup	cex size value used when plotting suppressed observations.
legend.x	x value passed to legend. If NULL, legend plotting is skipped.
legend.y	Optional y value passed to legend
	Optional graphical parameters.

Details

Produces various plots using objects fit by bartc. plot_sigma and plot_est are traditional parameter trace plots that can be used to diagnose the convergence of the posterior sampler. If the bartc model is fit with n.chains greater than one, by default each chain will be plotted with its own line type.

plot_indiv produces a simple histogram of the distribution of the estimates of the individual effects, taken as the average of their posterior samples.

plot_support is used to visualize the common support diagnostic in the form of a scatterplot. Points that the diagnostic excludes are outlined in red. The contents of the x and y axes are controlled by the xvar and yvar arguments respectively and can be of the form:

bartc-plot

- "tree.XX" Variable number "XX" as selected by variable importance in predicting individual treatment effects using a tree fit by rpart. "XX" must be a number not exceeding the number of continuous variables used to fit the response model.
- "pca.XX" "XX"th principal component axis.
- "css" The common support statistic.
- "y" Observed response variable.
- "y0" Predicted values for the response under the control as obtained by fitted.
- "y1" Predicted values for the response under the treatment fitted.
- "indiv.diff" Individual treatment effect estimates, or $\hat{y}(1) \hat{y}(0)$.
- "p.score" Propensity score used to fit the response model (if applicable).
- "p.weights" Weights used when taking average of individual differences for response method "p.weight".
- predictor columns Given by name or number.
- supplied vector Any vector of length equal to the number of observations.

Value

None, although plotting occurs as a side-effect.

Author(s)

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See Also

bartc

Examples

```
# generate fake data using a simple linear model
n <- 100L
beta.z <- c(.75, -0.5, 0.25)
beta.y <- c(.5, 1.0, -1.5)
sigma <- 2
set.seed(725)
x <- matrix(rnorm(3 * n), n, 3)
tau <- rgamma(1L, 0.25 * 16 * rgamma(1L, 1 * 32, 32), 16)
p.score <- pnorm(x %*% beta.z)
z <- rbinom(n, 1, p.score)
mu.0 <- x %*% beta.y
mu.1 <- x %*% beta.y + tau
y <- mu.0 * (1 - z) + mu.1 * z + rnorm(n, 0, sigma)
# run with low parameters only for example
```

summary.bartcFit Summary for bartcFit Objects

Description

Summarizes bartc fits by calculating target quantities and uncertainty estimates.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'bartcFit'
summary(object,
```

```
target = c("pate", "sate", "cate"),
ci.style = c("norm", "quant", "hpd"), ci.level = 0.95,
pate.style = c("ppd", "var.exp"),
...)
```

Arguments

object	Object of class bartcFit.
target	Treatment effect to calculate. One of "pate" - population average treatment effect, "sate" - sample average treatment effect, and "cate" - conditional average treatment effect.
ci.style	Means of calculating confidence intervals (posterior credible regions). Options include "norm" - use a normal approximation, "quant" - the empirical quantites of the posterior samples, and "hpd" - region of highest posterior density.
ci.level	Level of confidence for intervals.
pate.style	For target "pate", calculate uncertainty by using "ppd" - the posterior predictive distribution or "var.exp" a variance expansion formula.
	Not used at moment, but present to match summary generic signature.

14

summary.bartcFit

Details

summary produces a numeric and qualitative summary of a bartc fit.

Target Types

The SATE and PATE involve calculating predicted response values under different treatment conditions. When using extract or fitted, these values are simulated directly from the posterior predictive distribution. However, since these quantities all have the same expected value, in order to provide consistent results summary only uses those simulations to derive credible intervals. Thus the estimates for CATE, SATE, and PATE all should be reported as the same but with increasing degrees of uncertainty.

Grouped Data

If a model is fit with a supplied grouping variable and group.effects = TRUE, the estimates will also be reported within groups. When possible, the last line corresponds to the population. Within group estimates for response methods such as "tmle" cannot easily be extrapolated to the population at large - the means will combine based on the sample sizes but the uncertainty estimates will lack correlations.

Value

An object of class bartcFit.summary equivalent to a list with named items:

call	how bartc was called
method.rsp	character string specifying the method used to fit the response surface
method.trt	character string specifying the method used to fit the treatment assignment mechanism
ci.info	a named list with items target, ci.style, ci.level, and pate.style as passed to summary $% \left[\left({{{\mathbf{x}}_{i}}} \right) \right]$
n.obs	total number of observations
n.samples	number of samples within any one chain
n.chains	total number of chains
commonSup.rule	common support rule used when fitting object to produce estimates
estimates	a data.frame with columns "estimate" - the target, "sd" - standard devi- ation of posterior of estimate, "ci.lower" - lower bound of credible region, "ci.upper" - upper bound of credible region, and optionally "n.cut" - how many observations were dropped using common support rule

Author(s)

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Index

* bart bartc, 2bartc-generics, 7 bartc-plot, 11 * causal bartc. 2 bartc-generics, 7 bartc-plot, 11 * plot bartc-plot, 11 * tmle bartc.2bartc-generics, 7 bart2, 4, 5, 7 bartc, 2, 7, 9-13, 15 bartc-generics, 7 bartc-plot, 11 dbartsData, 5 extract, 5, 15 extract (bartc-generics), 7 fitted, 5, 12, 13 fitted.bartcFit(bartc-generics), 7 generics, 4glm, **4** hist, <u>12</u> legend, 12 1m, <mark>4</mark> 1me4, 3 plot_est, 5 plot_est (bartc-plot), 11 plot_indiv, 5 plot_indiv (bartc-plot), 11 plot_sigma, 5

plot_sigma (bartc-plot), 11
plot_support, 5
plot_support (bartc-plot), 11
predict, 5
predict.bartcFit (bartc-generics), 7

rbart, 3
refit (bartc-generics), 7
rpart, 13

summary, 3-5, 9
summary.bartcFit, 14