# Package 'nnfor'

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elm

## Extreme learning machines for time series forecasting

## Description

This function fits ELM neural networks for time series forecasting.

#### Usage

```
elm(
 у,
 m = frequency(y),
 hd = NULL,
  type = c("lasso", "ridge", "step", "lm"),
  reps = 20,
  comb = c("median", "mean", "mode"),
  lags = NULL,
  keep = NULL,
  difforder = NULL,
  outplot = c(FALSE, TRUE),
  sel.lag = c(TRUE, FALSE),
  direct = c(FALSE, TRUE),
  allow.det.season = c(TRUE, FALSE),
  det.type = c("auto", "bin", "trg"),
 xreg = NULL,
  xreg.lags = NULL,
 xreg.keep = NULL,
 barebone = c(FALSE, TRUE),
 model = NULL,
  retrain = c(FALSE, TRUE)
```

## )

У	Input time series. Can be ts or msts object.
m	Frequency of the time series. By default it is picked up from y.

hd	Number of hidden nodes. This can be a vector, where each number represents the number of hidden nodes of a different hidden layer. Use NULL to automatically specify.
type	Estimation type for output layer weights. Can be "lasso" (lasso with CV), "ridge" (ridge regression with CV), "step" (stepwise regression with AIC) or "lm" (linear regression).
reps	Number of networks to train, the result is the ensemble forecast.
comb	Combination operator for forecasts when reps > 1. Can be "median", "mode" (based on KDE estimation) and "mean".
lags	Lags of y to use as inputs. If none provided then $1:$ frequency(y) is used. Use 0 for no univariate lags.
keep	Logical vector to force lags to stay in the model if sel.lag == TRUE. If NULL then it keep = rep(FALSE,length(lags)).
difforder	Vector including the differencing lags. For example $c(1,12)$ will apply first and seasonal (12) differences. For no differencing use 0. For automatic selection use NULL.
outplot	Provide plot of model fit. Can be TRUE or FALSE.
sel.lag	Automatically select lags. Can be TRUE or FALSE.
direct	Use direct input-output connections to model strictly linear effects. Can be TRUE or FALSE.
allow.det.seasc	
	Permit modelling seasonality with deterministic dummies.
det.type	Type of deterministic seasonality dummies to use. This can be "bin" for binary or "trg" for a sine-cosine pair. With "auto" if ony a single seasonality is used and periodicity is up to 12 then "bin" is used, otherwise "trg".
xreg	Exogenous regressors. Each column is a different regressor and the sample size must be at least as long as the target in-sample set, but can be longer.
xreg.lags	This is a list containing the lags for each exogenous variable. Each list is a numeric vector containing lags. If xreg has 3 columns then the xreg.lags list must contain three elements. If NULL then it is automatically specified.
xreg.keep	List of logical vectors to force lags of xreg to stay in the model if sel.lag == TRUE. If NULL then all exogenous lags can be removed.
barebone	Use an alternative elm implementation (written in R) that is faster when the number of inputs is very high. Typically not needed.
model	A previously trained mlp object. If this is provided then the same model is fitted to y, without re-estimating any model parameters.
retrain	If a previous model is provided, retrain the network or not. If the network is retrained the size of the hidden layer is reset.

Return object of class elm. If barebone == TRUE then the object inherits a second class "elm.fast". The function plot produces a plot the network architecture. elm contains:

- net ELM networks. If it is of class "elm.fast" then this is NULL.
- hd Number of hidden nodes. If it is of class "elm.fast" this is a vector with a different number for each repetition.
- W. in NULL unless it is of class "elm. fast". Contains the input weights.
- W Output layer weights for each repetition.
- b Contains the output node bias for each training repetition.
- W.dct Contains the direct connection weights if argument direct == TRUE. Otherwise is NULL.
- lags Input lags used.
- xreg.lags xreg lags used.
- difforder Differencing used.
- sdummy Use of deterministic seasonality.
- ff Seasonal frequencies detected in data (taken from ts or msts object).
- ff.det Seasonal frequencies coded using deterministic dummies.
- det.type Type of determistic seasonality.
- y Input time series.
- minmax Scaling structure.
- xreg.minmax Scaling structure for xreg variables.
- comb Combination operator used.
- type Estimation used for output layer weights.
- direct Presence of direct input-output connections.
- fitted Fitted values.
- MSE In-sample Mean Squared Error.

#### Note

To use elm with Temporal Hierarchies (thief package) see elm. thief. The elm function by default calls the neuralnet function. If barebone == TRUE then it uses an alternative implementation (TStools:::elm.fast) which is more appropriate when the number of inputs is several hundreds.

## Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

#### References

- For an introduction to neural networks see: Ord K., Fildes R., Kourentzes N. (2017) Principles of Business Forecasting 2e. Wessex Press Publishing Co., Chapter 10.
- For combination operators see: Kourentzes N., Barrow B.K., Crone S.F. (2014) Neural network ensemble operators for time series forecasting. *Expert Systems with Applications*, 41(9), 4235-4244.

#### elm.fast

- For variable selection see: Crone S.F., Kourentzes N. (2010) Feature selection for time series prediction A combined filter and wrapper approach for neural networks. *Neurocomputing*, **73**(10), 1923-1936.
- For ELMs see: Huang G.B., Zhou H., Ding X. (2006) Extreme learning machine: theory and applications. *Neurocomputing*, **70**(1), 489-501.

## See Also

forecast.elm, elm.thief, mlp.

#### Examples

```
## Not run:
fit <- elm(AirPassengers)
print(fit)
plot(fit)
frc <- forecast(fit,h=36)
plot(frc)
```

## End(Not run)

elm.fast

#### ELM (fast) neural network.

#### Description

Fit ELM (fast) neural network. This is an ELM implementation that does not rely on neuralnets package.

#### Usage

```
elm.fast(
   y,
   x,
   hd = NULL,
   type = c("lasso", "ridge", "step", "ls"),
   reps = 20,
   comb = c("median", "mean", "mode"),
   direct = c(FALSE, TRUE),
   linscale = c(TRUE, FALSE),
   output = c("linear", "logistic"),
   core = c("FALSE", "TRUE"),
   ortho = c(FALSE, TRUE)
)
```

#### Arguments

У	Target variable.
х	Explanatory variables. Each column is a variable.
hd	Starting number of hidden nodes (scalar). Use NULL to automatically specify.
type	Estimation type for output layer weights. Can be "lasso" (lasso with CV), "ridge" (ridge regression with CV), "step" (stepwise regression with AIC) or "lm" (linear regression).
reps	Number of networks to train.
comb	Combination operator for forecasts when reps > 1. Can be "median", "mode" (based on KDE estimation) and "mean".
direct	Use direct input-output connections to model strictly linear effects. Can be TRUE or FALSE.
linscale	Scale inputs linearly between -0.8 to 0.8. If output == "logistic" then scaling is between 0 and 1.
output	Type of output layer. It can be "linear" or "logistic". If "logistic" then type must be set to "lasso".
core	If TRUE skips calculation of final fitted values and MSE. Called internally by "elm" function.
ortho	If TRUE then the initial weights between the input and hidden layers are orthog- onal (only when number of input variable <= sample size).

#### Value

An object of class "elm.fast". The function plot produces a plot the network fit. An object of class "elm.fast" is a list containing the following elements:

- hd Number of hidden nodes. This is a vector with a different number for each training repetition.
- W. in Input weights for each training repetition.
- W Output layer weights for each repetition.
- b Output node bias for each training repetition.
- W.dct Direct connection weights argument if direct == TRUE for each training repetition. Otherwuse NULL.
- fitted.all Fitted values for each training repetition.
- fitted Ensemble fitted values.
- y Target variable.
- type Estimation used for output layer weights.
- comb Combination operator used.
- direct Presence of direct input-output connections.
- minmax If scaling is used this contains the scaling information for the target variable.
- minmax.x If scaling is used this contains the scaling information for the input variables.
- MSE In-sample Mean Squared Error.

#### elm.thief

## Note

This implementation of ELM is more appropriate when the number of inputs is several hundreds. For time series modelling use elm instead.

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

#### References

- For combination operators see: Kourentzes N., Barrow B.K., Crone S.F. (2014) Neural network ensemble operators for time series forecasting. *Expert Systems with Applications*, **41**(9), 4235-4244.
- For ELMs see: Huang G.B., Zhou H., Ding X. (2006) Extreme learning machine: theory and applications. *Neurocomputing*, **70**(1), 489-501.

#### See Also

elm.

#### Examples

```
## Not run:
p <- 2000
n <- 150
X <- matrix(rnorm(p*n),nrow=n)
b <- cbind(rnorm(p))
Y <- X %*% b
fit <- elm.fast(Y,X)
print(fit)
```

## End(Not run)

elm.thief

ELM network for THieF.

#### Description

Function for ELM forecasting with Temporal Hierarchies.

#### Usage

elm.thief(y, h = NULL, ...)

#### Arguments

У	Input time series. Can be ts or msts object.
h	Forecast horizon. If NULL then h is set to match frequency of time series.
	Additional arguments passed to elm.

#### Value

An object of classes "forecast.net" and "forecast". The function plot produces a plot of the forecasts. An object of class "forecast.net" is a list containing the following elements:

- method The name of the forecasting method as a character string
- mean Point forecasts as a time series
- all.mean An array h x reps of all ensemble members forecasts, where reps are the number of ensemble members.
- x The original time series (either fit used to create the network.
- fitted Fitted values. Any values not fitted for the initial period of the time series are imputted with NA.
- residuals Residuals from the fitted network.

#### Note

This function is created to work with Temporal Hierarchied (thief package). For conventional ELM networks use elm.

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

## References

- For forecasting with temporal hierarchies see: Athanasopoulos G., Hyndman R.J., Kourentzes N., Petropoulos F. (2017) Forecasting with Temporal Hierarchies. *European Journal of Operational research*, **262**(1), 60-74.
- For combination operators see: Kourentzes N., Barrow B.K., Crone S.F. (2014) Neural network ensemble operators for time series forecasting. *Expert Systems with Applications*, **41**(9), 4235-4244.

#### See Also

elm, mlp.thief.

#### forecast.elm

#### Examples

```
## Not run:
   library(thief)
   frc <- thief(AirPassengers,forecastfunction=elm.thief)
   plot(frc)
## End(Not run)
```

forecast.elm Forecast using ELM neural network.

## Description

Create forecasts using ELM neural networks.

#### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'elm'
forecast(object, h = NULL, y = NULL, xreg = NULL, ...)
```

#### Arguments

object	ELM network object, produced using elm.
h	Forecast horizon. If NULL then h is set to match frequency of time series.
У	Optionally forecast using different data than what the network was trained on. Expected to create havoc and do really bad things!
xreg	Exogenous regressors. Each column is a different regressor and the sample size must be at least as long as the target in-sample set plus the forecast horizon, but can be longer. Set it to NULL if no xreg inputs are used.
	Unused argument.

#### Value

An object of classes "forecast.net" and "forecast". The function plot produces a plot of the forecasts. An object of class "forecast.net" is a list containing the following elements:

- method The name of the forecasting method as a character string
- mean Point forecasts as a time series
- all.mean An array h x reps of all ensemble members forecasts, where reps are the number of ensemble members.
- x The original time series used to create the network.
- fitted Fitted values.
- residuals Residuals from the fitted network.

## Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

## See Also

elm, elm.thief, mlp.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
fit <- elm(AirPassengers)
plot(fit)
frc <- forecast(fit,h=36)
plot(frc)
## End(Not run)
```

forecast.mlp Forecast using MLP neural network.

## Description

Create forecasts using MLP neural networks.

## Usage

## S3 method for class 'mlp'
forecast(object, h = NULL, y = NULL, xreg = NULL, ...)

object	MLP network object, produced using mlp.
h	Forecast horizon. If NULL then h is set to match frequency of time series.
У	Optionally forecast using different data than what the network was trained on. Expected to create havoc and do really bad things!
xreg	Exogenous regressors. Each column is a different regressor and the sample size must be at least as long as the target in-sample set plus the forecast horizon, but can be longer. Set it to NULL if no xreg inputs are used.
	Unused argument.

#### linscale

#### Value

An object of classes "forecast.net" and "forecast". The function plot produces a plot of the forecasts. An object of class "forecast.net" is a list containing the following elements:

- method The name of the forecasting method as a character string
- mean Point forecasts as a time series
- all.mean An array h x reps of all ensemble members forecasts, where reps are the number of ensemble members.
- x The original time series used to create the network.
- fitted Fitted values.
- residuals Residuals from the fitted network.

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

#### See Also

mlp, mlp.thief, elm.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
fit <- mlp(AirPassengers)
plot(fit)
frc <- forecast(fit,h=36)
plot(frc)
```

linscale

## End(Not run)

#### Description

Apply minmax linear scaling to a vector.

#### Usage

```
linscale(x, minmax = NULL, rev = c(FALSE, TRUE))
```

#### Arguments

х	Input vector.
minmax	minmax must be a list with elements "mn", "mx", "mn.orig" and "mx.orig", where "mn" and "mx" refer to the target min and max, and the remaining two refer to the current vector min and max. By default mn=-1 and mx=1. mn.orig and mx.orig can be missing, unless the scaling is reversed.
rev	Reverse scaling back to original: TRUE or FALSE.

## Value

Outputs a list with elements:

- x Scaled vector.
- minmax List with resulting mn, mx, mn.orig and mx.orig. Can be used as input to reverse scaling.

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

## Examples

```
y <- rnorm(20)*100
sc <- linscale(y)
x <- sc$x
print(c(min(y),max(y)))
print(c(min(x),max(x)))
sc.rev <- linscale(x,minmax=sc$minmax,rev=TRUE)
print(c(min(sc.rev$x),max(sc.rev$x)))</pre>
```

mlp

Multilayer Perceptron for time series forecasting

#### Description

This function fits MLP neural networks for time series forecasting.

#### Usage

```
mlp(
  y,
  m = frequency(y),
  hd = NULL,
  reps = 20,
  comb = c("median", "mean", "mode"),
  lags = NULL,
```

```
keep = NULL,
difforder = NULL,
outplot = c(FALSE, TRUE),
sel.lag = c(TRUE, FALSE),
allow.det.season = c(TRUE, FALSE),
det.type = c("auto", "bin", "trg"),
xreg = NULL,
xreg.lags = NULL,
xreg.keep = NULL,
hd.auto.type = c("set", "valid", "cv", "elm"),
hd.max = NULL,
model = NULL,
retrain = c(FALSE, TRUE),
...
```

## Arguments

)

У	Input time series. Can be ts or msts object.
m	Frequency of the time series. By default it is picked up from y.
hd	Number of hidden nodes. This can be a vector, where each number represents the number of hidden nodes of a different hidden layer.
reps	Number of networks to train, the result is the ensemble forecast.
comb	Combination operator for forecasts when reps > 1. Can be "median", "mode" (based on KDE estimation) and "mean".
lags	Lags of y to use as inputs. If none provided then 1:frequency(y) is used. Use 0 for no univariate lags.
keep	Logical vector to force lags to stay in the model if sel.lag == TRUE. If NULL then it keep = rep(FALSE,length(lags)).
difforder	Vector including the differencing lags. For example $c(1,12)$ will apply first and seasonal (12) differences. For no differencing use 0. For automatic selection use NULL.
outplot	Provide plot of model fit. Can be TRUE or FALSE.
sel.lag	Automatically select lags. Can be TRUE or FALSE.
allow.det.seasc	
	Permit modelling seasonality with deterministic dummies.
det.type	Type of deterministic seasonality dummies to use. This can be "bin" for binary or "trg" for a sine-cosine pair. With "auto" if ony a single seasonality is used and periodicity is up to 12 then "bin" is used, otherwise "trg".
xreg	Exogenous regressors. Each column is a different regressor and the sample size must be at least as long as the target in-sample set, but can be longer.
xreg.lags	This is a list containing the lags for each exogenous variable. Each list is a numeric vector containing lags. If xreg has 3 columns then the xreg.lags list must contain three elements. If NULL then it is automatically specified.

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xreg.keep	List of logical vectors to force lags of xreg to stay in the model if sel.lag == TRUE. If NULL then all exogenous lags can be removed. The syntax for multiple xreg is the same as for xreg.lags.
hd.auto.type	Used only if hd==NULL. "set" fixes hd=5. "valid" uses a 20% validation set (randomly) sampled to find the best number of hidden nodes. "cv" uses 5-fold cross-validation. "elm" uses ELM to estimate the number of hidden nodes (experimental).
hd.max	When hd.auto.type is set to either "valid" or "cv" then this argument can be used to set the maximum number of hidden nodes to evaluate, otherwise the maximum is set automatically.
model	A previously trained mlp object. If this is provided then the same model is fitted to y, without re-estimating any model parameters.
retrain	If a previous model is provided, retrain the network or not.
	Additional inputs for neuralnet function.

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Return object of class mlp. The function plot produces a plot the network architecture. mlp contains:

- net MLP networks.
- hd Number of hidden nodes.
- lags Input lags used.
- xreg.lags xreg lags used.
- difforder Differencing used.
- sdummy Use of deterministic seasonality.
- ff Seasonal frequencies detected in data (taken from ts or msts object).
- ff.det Seasonal frequencies coded using deterministic dummies.
- det.type Type of determistic seasonality.
- y Input time series.
- minmax Scaling structure.
- xreg.minmax Scaling structure for xreg variables.
- comb Combination operator used.
- fitted Fitted values.
- MSE In-sample Mean Squared Error.
- MSEH If hd.auto.type is set to either "valid" or "cv" an array of the MSE error for each network size is provided. Otherwise this is NULL.

#### Note

To use mlp with Temporal Hierarchies (thief package) see mlp.thief.

## mlp.thief

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

#### References

- For an introduction to neural networks see: Ord K., Fildes R., Kourentzes N. (2017) Principles
  of Business Forecasting 2e. Wessex Press Publishing Co., Chapter 10.
- For combination operators see: Kourentzes N., Barrow B.K., Crone S.F. (2014) Neural network ensemble operators for time series forecasting. *Expert Systems with Applications*, **41**(9), 4235-4244.
- For variable selection see: Crone S.F., Kourentzes N. (2010) Feature selection for time series prediction A combined filter and wrapper approach for neural networks. *Neurocomputing*, **73(10)**, 1923-1936.

## See Also

forecast.mlp,mlp.thief,elm.

#### Examples

```
## Not run:
fit <- mlp(AirPassengers)
print(fit)
plot(fit)
frc <- forecast(fit,h=36)
plot(frc)
```

## End(Not run)

mlp.thief

MLP network for THieF.

#### Description

Function for MLP forecasting with Temporal Hierarchies.

#### Usage

mlp.thief(y, h = NULL, ...)

У	Input time series. Can be ts or msts object.
h	Forecast horizon. If NULL then h is set to match frequency of time series.
	Additional arguments passed to mlp.

An object of classes "forecast.net" and "forecast". The function plot produces a plot of the forecasts. An object of class "forecast.net" is a list containing the following elements:

- method The name of the forecasting method as a character string
- mean Point forecasts as a time series
- all.mean An array h x reps of all ensemble members forecasts, where reps are the number of ensemble members.
- x The original time series (either fit used to create the network.
- fitted Fitted values. Any values not fitted for the initial period of the time series are imputted with NA.
- residuals Residuals from the fitted network.

#### Note

This function is created to work with Temporal Hierarchied (thief package). For conventional MLP networks use mlp.

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

#### References

- For forecasting with temporal hierarchies see: Athanasopoulos G., Hyndman R.J., Kourentzes N., Petropoulos F. (2017) Forecasting with Temporal Hierarchies. *European Journal of Operational research*, 262(1), 60-74.
- For combination operators see: Kourentzes N., Barrow B.K., Crone S.F. (2014) Neural network ensemble operators for time series forecasting. *Expert Systems with Applications*, **41**(9), 4235-4244.

#### See Also

mlp, elm.thief.

#### Examples

```
## Not run:
library(thief)
frc <- thief(AirPassengers,forecastfunction=mlp.thief)
plot(frc)
```

## End(Not run)

nnfor

#### Description

The **nnfor** package provides automatic time series modelling with neural networks. It facilitates fully automatic, semi-manual or fully manual specification of networks, using multilayer perceptrons (mlp) and extreme learning machines (elm).

#### Note

You can find a tutorial how to use the package here.

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

#### References

- For an introduction to neural networks see: Ord K., Fildes R., Kourentzes N. (2017) Principles
  of Business Forecasting 2e. Wessex Press Publishing Co., Chapter 10.
- For ensemble combination operators see: Kourentzes N., Barrow B.K., Crone S.F. (2014) Neural network ensemble operators for time series forecasting. *Expert Systems with Applications*, **41**(9), 4235-4244.
- For variable selection see: Crone S.F., Kourentzes N. (2010) Feature selection for time series prediction A combined filter and wrapper approach for neural networks. *Neurocomputing*, **73**(10), 1923-1936.

plot.elm

Plot ELM network.

#### Description

Produces a plot of the ELM network architecture.

#### Usage

## S3 method for class 'elm'
plot(x, r = 1, ...)

х	ELM network object, produced using elm.
r	Ensemple member to plot.
	Unused argument.

None. Function produces a plot.

## Note

Neurons are coloured with "lightgrey". Seasonal dummies are coloured with "lightpink" and xreg with "lightblue".

#### Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

## See Also

elm, mlp.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
  fit <- elm(AirPassengers)
  print(fit)
  plot(fit)
  frc <- forecast(fit,h=36)
  plot(frc)
```

## End(Not run)

plot.mlp

Plot MLP network.

## Description

Produces a plot of the MLP network architecture.

#### Usage

## S3 method for class 'mlp'
plot(x, r = 1, ...)

х	MLP network object, produced using mlp.
r	Ensemple member to plot.
	Unused argument.

## predict.elm.fast

## Value

None. Function produces a plot.

#### Note

Neurons are coloured with "lightgrey". Seasonal dummies are coloured with "lightpink" and xreg with "lightblue".

## Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

## See Also

elm, mlp.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
fit <- mlp(AirPassengers)
print(fit)
plot(fit)
frc <- forecast(fit,h=36)
plot(frc)
```

## End(Not run)

predict.elm.fast *Predictions for ELM (fast) network.* 

## Description

Calculate predictions for ELM (fast) network.

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'elm.fast'
predict(object, newx, na.rm = c(FALSE, TRUE), ...)
```

object	ELM network object, produced using elm.fast.
newx	Explanatory variables. Each column is a variable.
na.rm	If TRUE remove columns and object produces an ensemble forecast, then re- move any members that give NA in their forecasts.
	Unused argument.

Returns a list with:

- Y.hat Ensemble prediction.
- Y.all Predictions of each training repetition.

## Author(s)

Nikolaos Kourentzes, <nikolaos@kourentzes.com>

## See Also

elm.fast.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
    p <- 2000
    n <- 150
    X <- matrix(rnorm(p*n),nrow=n)
    b <- cbind(rnorm(p))
    Y <- X %*% b
    fit <- elm.fast(Y,X)
    predict(fit,X)
```

## End(Not run)

## Index

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