

Package ‘ridgeBART’

May 27, 2026

Type Package

Title Bayesian Additive Regression Trees with Ridge Function Outputs

Version 1.0.2

Date 2026-05-19

Description Implements an extension of Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART) in which each regression tree outputs a linear combination of random ridge functions (i.e., a composition of a non-linear function like cosine, hyperbolic tangent, the rectified linear unit with an affine transformation) instead of a constant. Can be used to perform “targeted smoothing” in which trees split on certain covariates but output smooth functions in other covariates. For more information, see Yee, Ghosh, and Deshpande (2026+) <[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2411.07984](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.07984)>.

URL <https://github.com/ryanyee3/ridgeBART>

License GPL (>= 3)

LinkingTo Rcpp, RcppArmadillo

Imports Rcpp

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Ryan Yee [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-5691-4009>>), Sameer K. Deshpande [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4116-5533>>)

Maintainer Sameer K. Deshpande <sameer.deshpande@wisc.edu>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-05-27 10:30:02 UTC

Contents

predict_ridgeBART	2
probit_ridgeBART	3
ridgeBART	6

Index	11
--------------	-----------

predict_ridgeBART *Predicting new observations with previously fit ridgeBART models.*

Description

predict_ridgeBART can take the output of ridgeBART or probit_ridgeBART and use it to make predictions at new inputs.

Usage

```
predict_ridgeBART(
  fit,
  X_cont = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  X_cat = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  Z_mat = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  verbose = FALSE, print_every = 100
)
```

Arguments

fit	Object returned by ridgeBART or probit_ridgeBART
X_cont	Matrix of continuous predictors. Note all predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval [-1,1]. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that no continuous predictors are available.
X_cat	Integer matrix of categorical predictors for training data. Note categorical levels should be 0-indexed. That is, if a categorical predictor has 10 levels, the values should run from 0 to 9. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that no categorical predictors.
Z_mat	Matrix of smoothing predictors. Note, predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval [-1,1]. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no continuous predictors in the training data.
verbose	Logical, indicating whether or not to print message predictions are being made. Default is FALSE.
print_every	As the function loops over the MCMC samples, a message is printed to the console every print_every iterations. Default is 100.

Value

A matrix containing posterior samples of the regression function evaluated at the supplied inputs. The rows of the matrix correspond to MCMC iterations and the columns correspond to the observations in the supplied data (i.e. rows of X_cont, X_cat and/or Z_mat).

probit_ridgeBART *Probit ridgeBART for binary outcomes.*

Description

Fit a ridgeBART model of a binary responses using the the Albert & Chib (1993) data augmentation for probit models.

Usage

```
probit_ridgeBART(
  Y_train,
  X_cont_train = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  X_cat_train = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  Z_mat_train = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  X_cont_test = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  X_cat_test = matrix(0L, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  Z_mat_test = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  unif_cuts = rep(TRUE, times = ncol(X_cont_train)),
  cutpoints_list = NULL,
  cat_levels_list = NULL,
  sparse = FALSE, p_change = 0.2,
  M = 50, n_bases = 1, activation = "ReLU",
  rho_alpha = 2 * M, rho_nu = 3, rho_lambda = stats::qchisq(.5, df = rho_nu) / rho_nu,
  nd = 1000, burn = 1000, thin = 1,
  save_samples = TRUE, save_trees = TRUE,
  verbose = TRUE, print_every = floor((nd*thin + burn))/10
)
```

Arguments

Y_train	Integer vector of binary (i.e. 0/1) responses for training data
X_cont_train	Matrix of continuous predictors for training data. Note, predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval [-1,1]. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no continuous predictors in the training data.
X_cat_train	Integer matrix of categorical predictors for training data. Note categorical levels should be 0-indexed. That is, if a categorical predictor has 10 levels, the values should run from 0 to 9. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no categorical predictors in the training data.
Z_mat_train	Matrix of smoothing predictors for training data. Note, predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval [-1,1]. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no continuous predictors in the training data.
X_cont_test	Matrix of continuous predictors for testing data. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that testing data is not provided.
X_cat_test	Integer matrix of categorical predictors for testing data. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that testing data is not provided.

<code>Z_mat_test</code>	Matrix of smoothing predictors for testing data. Note, predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval $[-1,1]$. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no continuous predictors in the training data.
<code>unif_cuts</code>	Vector of logical values indicating whether cutpoints for each continuous predictor should be drawn from a continuous uniform distribution (TRUE) or a discrete set (FALSE) specified in <code>cutpoints_list</code> . Default is TRUE for each variable in <code>X_cont_train</code>
<code>cutpoints_list</code>	List of length <code>ncol(X_cont_train)</code> containing a vector of cutpoints for each continuous predictor. By default, this is set to NULL so that cutpoints are drawn uniformly from a continuous distribution.
<code>cat_levels_list</code>	List of length <code>ncol(X_cat_train)</code> containing a vector of levels for each categorical predictor. If the j -th categorical predictor contains L levels, <code>cat_levels_list[[j]]</code> should be the vector $0:(L-1)$. Default is NULL, which corresponds to the case that no categorical predictors are available.
<code>sparse</code>	Logical, indicating whether or not to perform variable selection based on a sparse Dirichlet prior rather than uniform prior; see Linero 2018. Default is FALSE.
<code>p_change</code>	Probability of a change proposal in the MCMC. Defaults to 0.2.
<code>M</code>	Number of trees in the ensemble. Default is 50.
<code>n_bases</code>	Number of smoothing bases used in output function of leaf node. Default is 1.
<code>activation</code>	Specifies the activation function used to form the random basis functions. Options are ReLU, cos, or tanh. See ridgeBART for options. Default is ReLU.
<code>rho_alpha</code>	Confidence parameter of DP prior for the length scale. Default is <code>M</code> , the number of trees in the ensemble.
<code>rho_nu</code>	Shape parameter of base measure distribution chosen by <code>rho_option</code> . Default is 3.
<code>rho_lambda</code>	Scale parameter of base measure distribution chosen by <code>rho_option</code> . Default is <code>qchisq(.5, df = rho_nu) / rho_nu</code> .
<code>nd</code>	Number of posterior draws to return. Default is 1000.
<code>burn</code>	Number of MCMC iterations to be treated as "warmup" or "burn-in". Default is 1000.
<code>thin</code>	Number of post-warmup MCMC iteration by which to thin. Default is 1.
<code>save_samples</code>	Logical, indicating whether to return all posterior samples. Default is TRUE. If FALSE, only posterior mean is returned.
<code>save_trees</code>	Logical, indicating whether or not to save a text-based representation of the tree samples. This representation can be passed to <code>predict_ridgeBART</code> to make predictions at a later time. Default is FALSE.
<code>verbose</code>	Logical, indicating whether to print progress to R console. Default is TRUE.
<code>print_every</code>	As the MCMC runs, a message is printed every <code>print_every</code> iterations. Default is <code>floor((nd*thin + burn)/10)</code> so that only 10 messages are printed.

Details

See [ridgeBART](#) for activation options. Implements the Albert & Chib (1993) data augmentation strategy for probit regression and models the regression function with a sum-of-trees. The marginal prior of any evaluation of the regression function $f(x)$ is a normal distribution centered at μ_0 with standard deviation $\tau * \sqrt{M}$. As such, for each x , the induced prior for $P(Y = 1 | x)$ places 95% probability on the interval $\text{pnorm}(\mu_0 - 2 * \tau * \sqrt{M})$, $\text{pnorm}(\mu_0 + 2 * \tau * \sqrt{M})$. By default, we set $\tau = 1/\sqrt{M * n_bases}$ and $\mu_0 = \text{qnorm}(\text{mean}(Y_train))$ to shrink towards the observed mean.

Value

A list containing

<code>prob.train.mean</code>	Vector containing posterior mean of evaluations of regression function on training data.
<code>prob.train</code>	Matrix with <code>nd</code> rows and <code>length(Y_train)</code> columns. Each row corresponds to a posterior sample of the regression function and each column corresponds to a training observation. Only returned if <code>save_samples == TRUE</code> .
<code>prob.test.mean</code>	Vector containing posterior mean of evaluations of regression function on testing data, if testing data is provided.
<code>prob.test</code>	If testing data was supplied, matrix containing posterior samples of the regression function evaluated on the testing data. Structure is similar to that of <code>yhat_train</code> . Only returned if testing data is passed and <code>save_samples == TRUE</code> .
<code>varcounts</code>	Matrix that counts the number of times a variable was used in a decision rule in each MCMC iteration. Structure is similar to that of <code>yhat_train</code> , with rows corresponding to MCMC iteration and columns corresponding to predictors, with continuous predictors listed first followed by categorical predictors
<code>trees</code>	A list (of length <code>M</code>) of change logs and indexed decision rules and leaf parameters containing textual representations of the regression trees. These strings are parsed by <code>predict_ridgeBART</code> to reconstruct the C++ representations of the sampled trees.

References

Albert, J.H. and Chib, S. (1993). Bayesian analysis of binary and polychotomous response data. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. **88**(422):669–679. doi:[10.1080/01621459.1993.10476321](https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.1993.10476321).

See Also

[ridgeBART](#) for continuous outcomes.

ridgeBART

*BART with ridge function outputs.***Description**

Implements an extension of Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART; Chipman et al. 2010) that replaces constant leaf node outputs with linear combinations of ridge functions. These ridge functions are a composition between an affine transformation and a user-specified non-linear activation function (e.g., cosine, hyperbolic tangent, logistic, or ReLU).

Usage

```
ridgeBART(
  Y_train,
  X_cont_train = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  X_cat_train = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  Z_mat_train = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  X_cont_test = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  X_cat_test = matrix(0L, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  Z_mat_test = matrix(0, nrow = 1, ncol = 1),
  unif_cuts = rep(TRUE, times = ncol(X_cont_train)),
  cutpoints_list = NULL,
  cat_levels_list = NULL,
  sparse = FALSE, p_change = 0.2, sigma0 = 1.0,
  M = 50, n_bases = 1, activation = "ReLU",
  rho_alpha = 2 * M, rho_nu = 3, rho_lambda = stats::qchisq(.5, df = rho_nu) / rho_nu,
  nd = 1000, burn = 1000, thin = 1,
  save_samples = TRUE, save_trees = TRUE,
  verbose = TRUE, print_every = floor((nd*thin + burn))/10
)
```

Arguments

Y_train	Vector of continuous responses for training data
X_cont_train	Matrix of continuous predictors for training data. Note, predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval [-1,1]. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no continuous predictors in the training data.
X_cat_train	Integer matrix of categorical predictors for training data. Note categorical levels should be 0-indexed. That is, if a categorical predictor has 10 levels, the values should run from 0 to 9. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no categorical predictors in the training data.
Z_mat_train	Matrix of smoothing predictors for training data. Note, predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval [-1,1]. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no continuous predictors in the training data.
X_cont_test	Matrix of continuous predictors for testing data. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that testing data is not provided.

<code>X_cat_test</code>	Integer matrix of categorical predictors for testing data. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that testing data is not provided.
<code>Z_mat_test</code>	Matrix of smoothing predictors for testing data. Note, predictors must be re-scaled to lie in the interval [-1,1]. Default is a 1x1 matrix, which signals that there are no continuous predictors in the training data.
<code>unif_cuts</code>	Vector of logical values indicating whether cutpoints for each continuous predictor should be drawn from a continuous uniform distribution (TRUE) or a discrete set (FALSE) specified in <code>cutpoints_list</code> . Default is TRUE for each variable in <code>X_cont_train</code>
<code>cutpoints_list</code>	List of length <code>ncol(X_cont_train)</code> containing a vector of cutpoints for each continuous predictor. By default, this is set to NULL so that cutpoints are drawn uniformly from a continuous distribution.
<code>cat_levels_list</code>	List of length <code>ncol(X_cat_train)</code> containing a vector of levels for each categorical predictor. If the <i>j</i> -th categorical predictor contains <i>L</i> levels, <code>cat_levels_list[[j]]</code> should be the vector $0:(L-1)$. Default is NULL, which corresponds to the case that no categorical predictors are available.
<code>sparse</code>	Logical, indicating whether or not to perform variable selection based on a sparse Dirichlet prior rather than uniform prior; see Linero 2018. Default is FALSE.
<code>p_change</code>	Probability of a change proposal in the MCMC. Defaults to 0.2.
<code>sigma0</code>	Prior variance. Defaults to 1.0.
<code>M</code>	Number of trees in the ensemble. Default is 50.
<code>n_bases</code>	Number of smoothing bases used in output function of leaf node. Default is 1.
<code>activation</code>	Specifies the activation function used to form the random basis functions. Options are ReLU, cos, or tanh. See details for further description. Default is ReLU.
<code>rho_alpha</code>	Concentration parameter of DP prior for the length scale. Default is $2*M$.
<code>rho_nu</code>	Shape parameter of base measure distribution chosen by <code>rho_option</code> . Default is 3.
<code>rho_lambda</code>	Scale parameter of base measure distribution chosen by <code>rho_option</code> . Default is $qchisq(0.5, df = nu) / nu$.
<code>nd</code>	Number of posterior draws to return. Default is 1000.
<code>burn</code>	Number of MCMC iterations to be treated as "warmup" or "burn-in". Default is 1000.
<code>thin</code>	Number of post-warmup MCMC iteration by which to thin. Default is 1.
<code>save_samples</code>	Logical, indicating whether to return all posterior samples. Default is TRUE. If FALSE, only posterior mean is returned.
<code>save_trees</code>	Logical, indicating whether or not to save a text-based representation of the tree samples. This representation can be passed to <code>predict_ridgeBART</code> to make predictions at a later time. Default is FALSE.
<code>verbose</code>	Logical, inciating whether to print progress to R console. Default is TRUE.
<code>print_every</code>	As the MCMC runs, a message is printed every <code>print_every</code> iterations. Default is $\text{floor}((nd*thin + burn)/10)$ so that only 10 messages are printed.

Details

Activation options: ReLU: ($h(x) = \max(x, 0)$) cos: ($h(x) = \sqrt{2} * \cos(x)$) tanh: ($h(x) = \tanh(x)$)

Value

A list containing

<code>y_mean</code>	Mean of the training observations (needed by <code>predict_ridgeBART</code>)
<code>y_sd</code>	Standard deviation of the training observations (needed by <code>predict_ridgeBART</code>)
<code>yhat.train.mean</code>	Vector containing posterior mean of evaluations of regression function on training data.
<code>yhat.train</code>	Matrix with <code>nd</code> rows and <code>length(Y_train)</code> columns. Each row corresponds to a posterior sample of the regression function and each column corresponds to a training observation. Only returned if <code>save_samples == TRUE</code> .
<code>yhat.test.mean</code>	Vector containing posterior mean of evaluations of regression function on testing data, if testing data is provided.
<code>yhat.test</code>	If testing data was supplied, matrix containing posterior samples of the regression function evaluated on the testing data. Structure is similar to that of <code>yhat_train</code> . Only returned if testing data is passed and <code>save_samples == TRUE</code> .
<code>sigma</code>	Vector containing ALL samples of the residual standard deviation, including burn-in.
<code>varcounts</code>	Matrix that counts the number of times a variable was used in a decision rule in each MCMC iteration. Structure is similar to that of <code>yhat_train</code> , with rows corresponding to MCMC iteration and columns corresponding to predictors, with continuous predictors listed first followed by categorical predictors
<code>trees</code>	A list (of length <code>M</code>) of change logs and indexed decision rules and leaf parameters containing textual representations of the regression trees. These strings are parsed by <code>predict_ridgeBART</code> to reconstruct the C++ representations of the sampled trees.

References

- Chipman, H, George, E.I., and McCulloch, R. (2008) BART: Bayesian Additive Regression Trees. *Annals of Applied Statistics*. 4(1):266–298. doi:10.1214/09AOAS285.
- Yee, R., Ghosh, S, and Deshpande, S.K. (2026+). Scalable piecewise smoothing with BART. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.07984*. doi:10.48550/arXiv.2411.07984.

See Also

[probit_ridgeBART](#) for binary outcomes.

Examples

```

## Define true regression function (piecewise smooth)
target <- function(x){
  if (x <= -0.5) return(-2 * x)
  else if (x <= 0) return(sin(5 * x))
  else if (x <= 0.5) return((x+1)^2)
  else return(log(x))
}

sigma <- 0.25
n_train <- 2000
n_test <- 100

set.seed(99)
X_train <- matrix(runif(n_train, min = -1, max = 1), ncol = 1)
mu_train <- rep(NA, times = n_train)
for (i in 1:n_train) mu_train[i] <- target(X_train[i,1])
Y_train <- mu_train + rnorm(n_train, mean = 0, sd = sigma)

X_test <- matrix(seq(-1, 1, length.out = n_test), ncol = 1)
mu_test <- rep(NA, times = n_test)
for (i in 1:n_test) mu_test[i] <- target(X_test[i,1])
Y_test <- mu_test + rnorm(n_test, mean = 0, sd = sigma)

## Token run to ensure installation works
fit <-
  ridgeBART(
    Y_train = Y_train,
    X_cont_train = X_train,
    Z_mat_train = X_train,
    X_cont_test = X_test,
    Z_mat_test = X_test,
    save_samples = FALSE, save_trees = FALSE,
    verbose = FALSE,
    nd = 5, burn = 5)

fit <-
  ridgeBART(
    Y_train = Y_train,
    X_cont_train = X_train,
    Z_mat_train = X_train,
    X_cont_test = X_test,
    Z_mat_test = X_test,
    save_samples = FALSE, save_trees = FALSE,
    nd = 100, burn = 100)

## Plot the poster mean regression function evaluations (i.e., fitted values)
## against the actual values. Points should cluster around 45-degree diagonal
## line y=x

plot(mu_train, fit$yhat.train.mean, pch = 16, cex = 0.5,

```

```
  xlab = "Truth", ylab = "Estimate", main = "Training")  
  abline(a = 0, b = 1, col = 'blue')
```

Index

`predict_ridgeBART`, [2](#)
`probit_ridgeBART`, [3](#), [8](#)
`ridgeBART`, [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)