# Package 'htetree'

November 29, 2023

Type Package

Title Causal Inference with Tree-Based Machine Learning Algorithms					
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Description Estimating heterogeneous treatment effects with tree-based machine learning algorithms and visualizing estimated results in flexible and presentation-ready ways. For more information, see Brand, Xu, Koch, and Geraldo (2021) <doi:10.1177 0081175021993503="">. Our current package first started as a fork of the 'causalTree' package on 'GitHub' and we greatly appreciate the authors for their extremely useful and free package.</doi:10.1177>					
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2 bundScript

dex		4
	simulation.1	4(
	saveUI	
	saveServ	
	saveInd	
	saveGCSS	
	saveFiles	
	saveBCSS	
	runDynamic	
	plotOutcomes	
	na.causalTree	
	model.frame.causalTree	
	matchinleaves	
	makeplots	
	init.causalForest	
	importance	
	hte_plot_line	
	hte_plot	
	hte_match	
	hte_ipw	
	hte_forest	
	hte_causalTree	
	htetree.anova	19
	honest.rparttree	
	honest.est.rparttree	17
	honest.est.causalTree	16
	honest.causalTree	12
	getDensities	12
	getDefaultPath	11
	formatg	11
	estimate.causalTree	. 10
	est.causalTree	10
	clearTemp	9
	causalTreeco	g
	causalTreecallback	
	causalTree.matrix	

# Description

intermediate function used to include necessary javascript to visualize tree structures and estimated treatment effect in shiny

causalTree 3

#### Usage

```
bundScript(...)
```

#### **Arguments**

... There is no required arguments in this function. But user could manipulate to include different css files.

#### Value

No return value. It is used to pass the Javascript to Shiny.

causalTree

Causal Effect Regression and Estimation Trees

# Description

Fit a causalTree model to get an rpart object

#### Usage

```
causalTree(
  formula,
  data,
 weights,
  treatment,
  subset,
  na.action = na.causalTree,
  split.Rule,
  split.Honest,
 HonestSampleSize,
  split.Bucket,
  bucketNum = 5,
  bucketMax = 100,
  cv.option,
  cv.Honest,
 minsize = 2L,
 x = FALSE,
  y = TRUE,
  propensity,
  control,
  split.alpha = 0.5,
  cv.alpha = 0.5,
  cv.gamma = 0.5,
  split.gamma = 0.5,
  cost,
)
```

4 causalTree

#### **Arguments**

formula a formula, with a response and features but no interaction terms. If this a a data

frome, that is taken as the model frame (see model.frame).

data an optional data frame that includes the variables named in the formula.

weights optional case weights.

treatment a vector that indicates the treatment status of each observation. 1 represents

treated and 0 represents control. Only binary treatment supported in this version.

subset optional expression saying that only a subset of the rows of the data should be

used in the fit.

na.action the default action deletes all observations for which y is missing, but keeps those

in which one or more predictors are missing.

split.Rule causalTree splitting options, one of "TOT", "CT", "fit", "tstats", four split-

ting rules in causalTree. Note that the "tstats" alternative does not have an associated cross-validation method cv.option; see Athey and Imbens (2016) for a discussion. Note further that split.Rule and cv.option can mix and

match.

split. Honest boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, used for split. Rule as "CT" or "fit". If set

as TRUE, do honest splitting, with default split.alpha = 0.5; if set as FALSE, do adaptive splitting with split.alpha = 1. The user choice of split.alpha will be ignored if split.Honest is set as FALSE, but will be respected if set to TRUE. For split.Rule="TOT", there is no honest splitting option and the parameter split.alpha does not matter. For split.Rule="tstats", a value of TRUE enables use of split.alpha in calculating the risk function, which determines the order of pruning in cross-validation. Note also that causalTree function returns the estimates from the training data, no matter what the value of split.Honest is; the tree must be re-estimated to get the honest estimates using estimate.causalTree. The wrapper function honest.CausalTree does

honest estimation in one step and returns a tree.

HonestSampleSize

number of observations anticipated to be used in honest re-estimation after building the tree. This enters the risk function used in both splitting and cross-

validation.

split.Bucket boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, used to specify whether to apply the discrete

method in splitting the tree. If set as TRUE, in splitting a node, the observations in a leaf will be be partitioned into buckets, with each bucket containing bucketNum treated and bucketNum control units, and where observations are

ordered prior to partitioning. Splitting will take place by bucket.

bucketNum number of observations in each bucket when set split.Bucket = TRUE. How-

ever, the code will override this choice in order to guarantee that there are at

least minsize and at most bucketMax buckets.

bucketMax Option to choose maximum number of buckets to use in splitting when set

split.Bucket = TRUE, bucketNum can change by choice of bucketMax.

cv.option cross validation options, one of "TOT", "matching", "CT", "fit", four cross

validation methods in  ${\bf causalTree}$ . There is no  ${\tt cv.option}$  for the  ${\tt split.Rule}$ 

"tstats"; see Athey and Imbens (2016) for discussion.

causalTree 5

cv.Honest boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, only used for cv.option as "CT" or "fit", to specify whether to apply honest risk evalation function in cross validation. If set TRUE, use honest risk function, otherwise use adaptive risk function in cross validation. If set FALSE, the user choice of cv. alpha will be set to 1. If set TRUE, cv. alpha will default to 0.5, but the user choice of cv. alpha will be respected. Note that honest cv estimates within-leaf variances and may perform better with larger leaf sizes and/or small number of cross-validation sets. minsize in order to split, each leaf must have at least minsize treated cases and minsize control cases. The default value is set as 2. keep a copy of the x matrix in the result. Х keep a copy of the dependent variable in the result. If missing and model is У supplied this defaults to FALSE. propensity score used in "TOT" splitting and "TOT", honest "CT" cross validation propensity methods. The default value is the proportion of treated cases in all observations. In this implementation, the propensity score is a constant for the whole dataset. Unit-specific propensity scores are not supported; however, the user may use inverse propensity scores as case weights if desired. control a list of options that control details of the rpart algorithm. See rpart.control. split.alpha scale parameter between 0 and 1, used in splitting risk evaluation function for "CT". When split. Honest = FALSE, split.alpha will be set as 1. For split.Rule="tstats", if split. Honest=TRUE, split.alpha is used in calculating the risk function, which determines the order of pruning in cross-validation. cv.alpha scale paramter between 0 and 1, used in cross validation risk evaluation function for "CT" and "fit". When cv. Honest = FALSE, cv. alpha will be set as 1. cv.gamma, split.gamma optional parameters used in evaluating policies. a vector of non-negative costs, one for each variable in the model. Defaults to cost one for all variables. These are scalings to be applied when considering splits, so the improvement on splitting on a variable is divided by its cost in deciding which split to choose. arguments to rpart.control may also be specified in the call to causalTree. They are checked against the list of valid arguments. An example of a commonly set parameter would be xval, which sets the number of cross-validation

samples. The parameter minsize is implemented differently in causalTree than in rpart; we require a minimum of minsize treated observations and a

#### **Details**

CausalTree differs from rpart function from **rpart** package in splitting rules and cross validation methods. Please check Athey and Imbens, *Recursive Partitioning for Heterogeneous Causal Effects* (2016) for more details.

minimum of minsize control observations in each leaf.

#### Value

An object of class rpart. See rpart.object.

6 causalTree.branch

#### References

Breiman L., Friedman J. H., Olshen R. A., and Stone, C. J. (1984) *Classification and Regression Trees*. Wadsworth.

Athey, S and G Imbens (2016) Recursive Partitioning for Heterogeneous Causal Effects. http://arxiv.org/abs/1504.01132

#### See Also

```
honest.causalTree, rpart.control, rpart.object, summary.rpart, rpart.plot
```

#### **Examples**

```
library("htetree")
library("rpart")
library("rpart.plot")
tree <- causalTree(y^x x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data = simulation.1,
treatment = simulation.1$treatment,
split.Rule = "CT", cv.option = "CT", split.Honest = TRUE, cv.Honest = TRUE,
split.Bucket = FALSE, xval = 5,
cp = 0, minsize = 20, propensity = 0.5)
opcp <- tree$cptable[,1][which.min(tree$cptable[,4])]</pre>
opfit <- prune(tree, opcp)</pre>
rpart.plot(opfit)
fittree <- causalTree(y^x x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data = simulation.1,
                      treatment = simulation.1$treatment,
                      split.Rule = "fit", cv.option = "fit";
                      split.Honest = TRUE, cv.Honest = TRUE, split.Bucket = TRUE,
                      bucketNum = 5,
                      bucketMax = 200, xval = 10,
                      cp = 0, minsize = 20, propensity = 0.5)
tstatstree <- causalTree(y^x x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data = simulation.1,
                         treatment = simulation.1$treatment,
                         split.Rule = "tstats", cv.option = "CT",
                         cv.Honest = TRUE, split.Bucket = TRUE,
                         bucketNum = 10,
                         bucketMax = 200, xval = 5,
                          cp = 0, minsize = 20, propensity = 0.5)
```

 $causal {\it Tree.branch}$ 

Compute the "branches" to be drawn for an causalTree object

# Description

Compute the "branches" to be drawn for an causalTree object

causalTree.control 7

#### Usage

```
causalTree.branch(x, y, node, branch)
```

#### **Arguments**

x covariates y outcome

node node of the fitted tree branch branch of the fitted tree

#### Value

number of branches to be drawn

causalTree.control

Intermediate function for causalTree

#### **Description**

Intermediate function for causalTree

# Usage

```
causalTree.control(
  minsplit = 20L,
  minbucket = round(minsplit/3),
  cp = 0,
  maxcompete = 4L,
  maxsurrogate = 5L,
  usesurrogate = 2L,
  xval = 10L,
  surrogatestyle = 0L,
  maxdepth = 30L,
  ...
)
```

### **Arguments**

minsplit minimum number of splits
minbucket minimum number of bucket

cp default is 0

maxsurrogate maximum number of compete maxsurrogate maximum number of surrogate usesurrogate initial number of surrogate

8 causalTreecallback

xval cross-validation
surrogatestyle the style of surrogate
maxdepth Maximum depth

... arguments to rpart.control may also be specified in the call to causalTree.

They are checked against the list of valid arguments. An example of a commonly set parameter would be xval, which sets the number of cross-validation samples. The parameter minsize is implemented differently in causalTree than in rpart; we require a minimum of minsize treated observations and a

minimum of minsize control observations in each leaf.

#### Value

parameters used to in causalTree

causalTree.matrix

 ${\it Intermediate function for } {\it causalTree}$ 

#### **Description**

Intermediate function for causalTree

#### Usage

```
causalTree.matrix(frame)
```

# **Arguments**

frame inherited from data.frame

# Value

A covariate matrix used in the causal regression.

causalTreecallback

Intermediate function for causalTree

# Description

This routine sets up the callback code for user-written split routines in causalTree

# Usage

```
causalTreecallback(mlist, nobs, init)
```

causalTreeco 9

#### **Arguments**

mlist a list of user written methods nobs number of observations

init function name

#### Value

split method written by users

causalTreeco

Intermediate function for causalTree

# Description

Compute the x-y coordinates for a tree

#### Usage

```
causalTreeco(tree, parms)
```

#### **Arguments**

tree an causalTree object

parms parms

#### Value

the x-y coordinates for a tree

clearTemp

Clear Temporary Files

#### **Description**

The files for shiny are saved in a temporary directory. The files can be cleared manually using the 'clearTemp()' function, or will automatically be cleared when you close R

#### Usage

```
clearTemp()
```

# Value

no return value, to unlink files under the temp folder

10 estimate.causalTree

est.causalTree

Intermediate function for causalTree

#### **Description**

Run down the built tree and get the final leaf ids for estimation sample

#### Usage

```
est.causalTree(fit, x)
```

#### **Arguments**

fit an causalTree object x covariates

#### Value

Intermediate estimation results for an causalTree object.

estimate.causalTree

estimate causal Tree

### **Description**

estimate causal Tree

#### Usage

```
estimate.causalTree(
  object,
  data,
  weights,
  treatment,
  na.action = na.causalTree
)
```

# Arguments

object A tree-structured fit rpart object, such as one generated as a causalTree fit.

data New data frame to be used for estimating effects within leaves.

weights optional case weights.

treatment The treatment status of observations in the new dataframe, where 1 represents

treated and 0 represents control.

na.action the default action deletes all observations for which y is missing, but keeps those

in which one or more predictors are missing.

formatg 11

#### **Details**

When the leaf contains only treated or control cases, the function will trace back to the leaf's parent node recursively until the parent can be used to compute causal effect. Please see Athey and Imbens *Machine Learning Methods for Estimating Heterogeneous Causal Effects* (2015) for details.

#### Value

Intermediate estimation results for an causalTree object

formatg

Intermediate function for causalTree

# Description

Intermediate function for causalTree

#### Usage

```
formatg(x, digits = getOption("digits"), format = paste0("%.", digits, "g"))
```

#### **Arguments**

x input training data

digits number of digits to be kept format format of exported vector

#### Value

No return value, called for formatting the exported estimates

getDefaultPath

Get the Current Working Directory

# Description

get the current work directory and set it as the default directory to save the shiny files temporarily

#### Usage

```
getDefaultPath()
```

# Value

a temporary file path

getDensities

Getting Distribution in Treatment and Control Groups

# Description

Getting the density of distribution in treatment and control groups, which will be displayed in the

#### Usage

```
getDensities(treatment, outcome)
```

# **Arguments**

treatment A character representing the name of treatment indicator.

Outcome A character representing the name of outcome variable.

#### Value

vector of corresponding densities for each value of outcome vector

honest.causalTree Causal Effect Regression and Estimation Trees: One-step honest esti-

mation

# Description

Fit a causalTree model to get an honest causal tree, with tree structure built on training sample (including cross-validation) and leaf estimates taken from estimation sample. Return an rpart object.

# Usage

```
honest.causalTree(
  formula,
  data,
  weights,
  treatment,
  subset,
  est_data,
  est_weights,
  est_treatment,
  est_subset,
  na.action = na.causalTree,
  split.Rule,
  split.Honest,
```

```
HonestSampleSize,
  split.Bucket,
 bucketNum = 10,
 bucketMax = 40,
 cv.option,
 cv.Honest,
 minsize = 2L,
 model = FALSE,
 x = FALSE,
 y = TRUE,
 propensity,
 control,
 split.alpha = 0.5,
 cv.alpha = 0.5,
 cv.gamma = 0.5,
  split.gamma = 0.5,
 cost,
)
```

# Arguments

formula	a formula, with a response and features but no interaction terms. If this a a data frome, that is taken as the model frame (see model.frame).
data	an optional data frame that includes the variables named in the formula.
weights	optional case weights.
treatment	a vector that indicates the treatment status of each observation. 1 represents treated and $0$ represents control. Only binary treatment supported in this version.
subset	optional expression saying that only a subset of the rows of the data should be used in the fit.
est_data	data frame to be used for leaf estimates; the estimation sample. Must contain the variables used in training the tree.
est_weights	optional case weights for estimation sample
est_treatment	treatment vector for estimation sample. Must be same length as estimation data. A vector indicates the treatment status of the data, 1 represents treated and 0 represents control. Only binary treatment supported in this version.
est_subset	optional expression saying that only a subset of the rows of the estimation data should be used in the fit of the re-estimated tree.
na.action	the default action deletes all observations for which y is missing, but keeps those in which one or more predictors are missing.
split.Rule	causalTree splitting options, one of "TOT", "CT", "fit", "tstats", four splitting rules in causalTree. Note that the "tstats" alternative does not have an associated cross-validation method cv.option; see Athey and Imbens (2016) for a discussion. Note further that split.Rule and cv.option can mix and match.

split.Honest

boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, used for split.Rule as "CT" or "fit". If set as TRUE, do honest splitting, with default split.alpha = 0.5; if set as FALSE, do adaptive splitting with split.alpha = 1. The user choice of split.alpha will be ignored if split.Honest is set as FALSE, but will be respected if set to TRUE. For split.Rule="TOT", there is no honest splitting option and the parameter split.alpha does not matter. For split.Rule="tstats", a value of TRUE enables use of split.alpha in calculating the risk function, which determines the order of pruning in cross-validation. Note also that causalTree function returns the estimates from the training data, no matter what the value of split.Honest is; the tree must be re-estimated to get the honest estimates using estimate.causalTree. The wrapper function honest.CausalTree does honest estimation in one step and returns a tree.

HonestSampleSize

number of observations anticipated to be used in honest re-estimation after building the tree. This enters the risk function used in both splitting and cross-validation.

split.Bucket

boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, used to specify whether to apply the discrete method in splitting the tree. If set as TRUE, in splitting a node, the observations in a leaf will be be partitioned into buckets, with each bucket containing bucketNum treated and bucketNum control units, and where observations are ordered prior to partitioning. Splitting will take place by bucket.

bucketNum

number of observations in each bucket when set split.Bucket = TRUE. However, the code will override this choice in order to guarantee that there are at least minsize and at most bucketMax buckets.

bucketMax

Option to choose maximum number of buckets to use in splitting when set split.Bucket = TRUE, bucketNum can change by choice of bucketMax.

cv.option

cross validation options, one of "TOT", "matching", "CT", "fit", four cross validation methods in **causalTree**. There is no cv.option for the split.Rule "tstats"; see Athey and Imbens (2016) for discussion.

cv.Honest

boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, only used for cv.option as "CT" or "fit", to specify whether to apply honest risk evalation function in cross validation. If set TRUE, use honest risk function, otherwise use adaptive risk function in cross validation. If set FALSE, the user choice of cv.alpha will be set to 1. If set TRUE, cv.alpha will default to 0.5, but the user choice of cv.alpha will be respected. Note that honest cv estimates within-leaf variances and may perform better with larger leaf sizes and/or small number of cross-validation sets.

minsize

in order to split, each leaf must have at least minsize treated cases and minsize control cases. The default value is set as 2.

mode1

model frame of causalTree, same as rpart

Χ

keep a copy of the x matrix in the result.

У

keep a copy of the dependent variable in the result. If missing and model is supplied this defaults to FALSE.

propensity

propensity score used in "TOT" splitting and "TOT", honest "CT" cross validation methods. The default value is the proportion of treated cases in all observations. In this implementation, the propensity score is a constant for the whole dataset.

Unit-specific propensity scores are not supported; however, the user may use

inverse propensity scores as case weights if desired.

control a list of options that control details of the rpart algorithm. See rpart.control.

split.alpha scale parameter between 0 and 1, used in splitting risk evaluation function for

"CT". When split. Honest = FALSE, split.alpha will be set as 1. For split.Rule="tstats",

if split. Honest=TRUE, split.alpha is used in calculating the risk function,

which determines the order of pruning in cross-validation.

cv.alpha scale paramter between 0 and 1, used in cross validation risk evaluation function

for "CT" and "fit". When cv. Honest = FALSE, cv. alpha will be set as 1.

cv.gamma, split.gamma

optional parameters used in evaluating policies.

cost a vector of non-negative costs, one for each variable in the model. Defaults to

one for all variables. These are scalings to be applied when considering splits, so the improvement on splitting on a variable is divided by its cost in deciding

which split to choose.

... arguments to rpart.control may also be specified in the call to causalTree.

They are checked against the list of valid arguments. An example of a commonly set parameter would be xval, which sets the number of cross-validation samples. The parameter minsize is implemented differently in causalTree than in rpart; we require a minimum of minsize treated observations and a

minimum of minsize control observations in each leaf.

#### Value

An object of class rpart. See rpart.object.

#### References

Breiman L., Friedman J. H., Olshen R. A., and Stone, C. J. (1984) *Classification and Regression Trees*. Wadsworth.

Athey, S and G Imbens (2016) Recursive Partitioning for Heterogeneous Causal Effects. http://arxiv.org/abs/1504.01132

#### See Also

```
causalTree, estimate.causalTree, rpart.object, summary.rpart, rpart.plot
```

#### **Examples**

```
library("rpart")
library("rpart.plot")
library("htetree")
n <- nrow(simulation.1)

trIdx <- which(simulation.1$treatment == 1)

conIdx <- which(simulation.1$treatment == 0)

train_idx <- c(sample(trIdx, length(trIdx) / 2), sample(conIdx,</pre>
```

16 honest.est.causalTree

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} honest. est. causal Tree & honest re-estimation & and change the frame of object using estimation \\ & sample \end{tabular}$ 

### **Description**

honest re-estimation and change the frame of object using estimation sample

#### Usage

```
honest.est.causalTree(fit, x, wt, treatment, y)
```

#### **Arguments**

```
fit an causalTree object

x input training data

wt optional weights

treatment treatment variable

y outcome variable
```

# Value

An object of class rpart. See rpart.object.

honest.est.rparttree 17

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} honest.est.rparttree & honest\ re-estimation\ and\ change\ the\ frame\ of\ object\ using\ estimation\ sample \end{tabular}$ 

#### **Description**

honest re-estimation and change the frame of object using estimation sample

#### Usage

```
honest.est.rparttree(fit, x, wt, y)
```

#### **Arguments**

```
fit an causalTree object
x input training data
wt optional weights
y outcome variable
```

#### Value

Intermediate estimation results for an honest estimation of causalTree.

honest.rparttree

Honest recursive partitioning Tree

#### **Description**

The recursive partitioning function, for R

# Usage

```
honest.rparttree(
  formula,
  data,
  weights,
  subset,
  est_data,
  est_weights,
  na.action = na.rpart,
  method,
  model = FALSE,
  x = FALSE,
  y = TRUE,
  parms,
```

18 honest.rparttree

```
control,
cost,
...
)
```

#### **Arguments**

formula a formula, with a response and features but no interaction terms. If this a a data

frome, that is taken as the model frame (see model.frame).

data an optional data frame that includes the variables named in the formula.

weights optional case weights.

subset optional expression saying that only a subset of the rows of the data should be

used in the fit.

est\_data data frame to be used for leaf estimates; the estimation sample. Must contain

the variables used in training the tree.

est\_weights optional case weights for estimation sample

na.action the default action deletes all observations for which y is missing, but keeps those

in which one or more predictors are missing.

method one of "anova", "poisson", "class" or "exp". If method is missing then the

routine tries to make an intelligent guess. If y is a survival object, then method = "exp" is assumed, if y has 2 columns then method = "poisson" is assumed, if y is a factor then method = "class" is assumed, otherwise method = "anova" is assumed. It is wisest to specify the method directly, especially as more criteria

may added to the function in future.

Alternatively, method can be a list of functions named init, split and eval. Examples are given in the file 'tests/usersplits.R' in the sources, and in the

vignettes 'User Written Split Functions'.

model model frame of causalTree, same as rpart

x keep a copy of the x matrix in the result.

y keep a copy of the dependent variable in the result. If missing and model is

supplied this defaults to FALSE.

parms optional parameters for the splitting function.

Anova splitting has no parameters.

Poisson splitting has a single parameter, the coefficient of variation of the prior

distribution on the rates. The default value is 1.

Exponential splitting has the same parameter as Poisson.

For classification splitting, the list can contain any of: the vector of prior probabilities (component prior), the loss matrix (component loss) or the splitting index (component split). The priors must be positive and sum to 1. The loss matrix must have zeros on the diagonal and positive off-diagonal elements. The splitting index can be gini or information. The default priors are proportional to the data counts the losses default to 1, and the orbit defaults to gini

to the data counts, the losses default to 1, and the split defaults to gini.

control a list of options that control details of the rpart algorithm. See rpart.control.

htetree.anova 19

cost a vector of non-negative costs, one for each variable in the model. Defaults to

one for all variables. These are scalings to be applied when considering splits, so the improvement on splitting on a variable is divided by its cost in deciding

which split to choose.

... arguments to rpart.control may also be specified in the call to causalTree.

They are checked against the list of valid arguments. An example of a commonly set parameter would be xval, which sets the number of cross-validation samples. The parameter minsize is implemented differently in causalTree than in rpart; we require a minimum of minsize treated observations and a

minimum of minsize control observations in each leaf.

#### Value

An object of class rpart after running an honest recursive partitioning tree. .

htetree.anova

*Intermediate function for* causalTree

# Description

Intermediate function for causalTree

#### Usage

```
htetree.anova(y, offset, wt)
```

#### **Arguments**

y outcome variable

offset this can be used to specify an a priori known component to be included in the

linear predictor during fitting. This should be NULL or a numeric vector of length equal to the number of cases. One or more offset terms can be included in the formula instead or as well, and if more than one is specified their sum is used.

See model.offset.

wt optional weights

#### Value

No return value.

20 hte\_causalTree

hte\_causalTree

Estimate Heterogeneous Treatment Effect via Causal Tree

#### **Description**

Estimate heterogeneous treatment effect via causal tree. In each leaf, the treatment effect is the difference of mean outcome in treatment group and control group.

#### Usage

```
hte_causalTree(
  outcomevariable,
 minsize = 20,
  crossvalidation = 20,
  data,
  treatment_indicator,
  ps_indicator,
  covariates,
  negative = FALSE,
  drawplot = TRUE,
  varlabel = NULL,
 maintitle = "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation",
  legend.x = 0.08,
  legend.y = 0.25,
  check = FALSE,
)
```

#### **Arguments**

outcomevariable

a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

minsize the minimum number of observations in each leaf. The default is set as 20.

crossvalidation

number of cross validations. The default is set as 20.

data a data frame containing the variables in the model.

treatment\_indicator

a character representing the column name of the treatment indicator.

ps\_indicator a character representing the column name of the propensity score.

covariates a vector of column names of all covariates (linear terms and propensity score).

negative a logical value indicating whether we expect the treatment effect to be negative.

The default is set as FALSE.

drawplot a logical value indicating whether to plot the model as part of the output. The

default is set as TRUE.

varlabel a named vector containing variable labels.

hte\_forest 21

```
maintitle a character string indicating the main title displayed when plotting the tree and results. The default is set as "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation".

legend.x, legend.y

x and y coordinate to position the legend. The default is set as (0.08, 0.25).

check if TRUE, generates 100 trees and outputs most common tree structures and their frequency

... further arguments passed to or from other methods.
```

#### Value

predicted treatment effect and the associated tree

#### **Examples**

hte\_forest

Estimate Heterogeneous Treatment Effect via Random Forest

#### Description

Estimate heterogeneous treatment effect via random forest. In each leaf, the treatment effect is the difference of mean outcome weighted by inverse propensity scores in treatment group and control group.

#### Usage

```
hte_forest(
  outcomevariable,
  minsize = 20,
  crossvalidation = 20,
  data = edurose_mediation_20181126,
  treatment_indicator = "compcoll25",
  ps_indicator = "propsc_com25",
  ps_linear = "propsc_com25lin",
  covariates = c(linear_terms, ps_indicator),
  negative = FALSE,
  drawplot = TRUE,
```

22 hte\_ipw

```
legend.x = 0.08,
legend.y = 0.25,
gf,
...
)
```

#### **Arguments**

outcomevariable

a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

minsize the minimum number of observations in each leaf. The default is set as 20.

crossvalidation

number of cross validations. The default is set as 20.

data a data frame containing the variables in the model.

treatment\_indicator

a character representing the column name of the treatment indicator.

ps\_indicator a character representing the column name of the propensity score.

ps\_linear a character representing name of a column that stores linearized propensity

scores.

covariates a vector of column names of all covariates (linear terms and propensity score).

negative a logical value indicating whether we expect the treatment effect to be negative.

The default is set as FALSE.

drawplot a logical value indicating whether to plot the model as part of the output. The

default is set as TRUE.

legend.x, legend.y

x and y coordinate to position the legend. The default is set as (0.08, 0.25).

gf a fitted generalized random forest object

... further arguments passed to or from other methods.

#### Value

A list with three elements. The first one is the predicted outcome for each unit. The second is an causalTree object with the tree split information. The third is a data.frame summarizing the prediction results.

hte\_ipw

Estimate Heterogeneous Treatment Effect via Adjusted Causal Tree

#### **Description**

Estimate heterogeneous treatment effect via adjusted causal tree. In each leaf, the treatment effect is the difference of mean outcome weighted by inverse propensity scores in treatment group and control group.

23 hte\_ipw

#### Usage

```
hte_ipw(
  outcomevariable,
 minsize = 20,
 crossvalidation = 20,
  data,
  treatment_indicator,
  ps_indicator,
  ps_linear = NULL,
  covariates,
  negative = FALSE,
  drawplot = TRUE,
  varlabel = NULL,
 maintitle = "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation",
  legend.x = 0.08,
  legend.y = 0.25,
  check = FALSE,
)
```

#### Arguments

outcomevariable

a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

minsize

the minimum number of observations in each leaf. The default is set as 20.

crossvalidation

number of cross validations. The default is set as 20.

a data frame containing the variables in the model. data

treatment\_indicator

a character representing the column name of the treatment indicator.

a character representing the column name of the propensity score. ps\_indicator

a character representing name of a column that stores linearized propensity ps\_linear

scores.

a vector of column names of all covariates (linear terms and propensity score). covariates

negative a logical value indicating whether we expect the treatment effect to be negative.

The default is set as FALSE.

drawplot a logical value indicating whether to plot the model as part of the output. The

default is set as TRUE.

varlabel a named vector containing variable labels.

maintitle a character string indicating the main title displayed when plotting the tree and

results. The default is set as "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation".

legend.x, legend.y

x and y coordinate to position the legend. The default is set as (0.08, 0.25).

if TRUE, generates 100 trees and outputs most common tree structures and their check

frequency

further arguments passed to or from other methods.

24 hte\_match

#### Value

predicted treatment effect and the associated tree

# **Examples**

```
library(rpart)
library(htetree)
hte_ipw(outcomevariable="outcome",
data=data.frame("confounder"=c(0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1),
   "treatment"=c(0,0,0,1,1,1), "prop_score"=c(0.4, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.6, 0.7),
   "outcome"=c(1, 2, 2, 1, 4, 4)), treatment_indicator = "treatment",
ps_indicator = "prop_score", covariates = "confounder")
```

hte\_match

Estimate Heterogeneous Treatment Effect via Adjusted Causal Tree

#### **Description**

Estimate heterogeneous treatment effect via adjusted causal tree. In each leaf, the treatment effect estimated from nn matching.

# Usage

```
hte_match(
  outcomevariable,
 minsize = 20,
  crossvalidation = 20,
  data,
  treatment_indicator,
  ps_indicator,
 ps_linear = NULL,
  covariates,
  negative = FALSE,
  drawplot = TRUE,
  con.num = 1,
  varlabel = NULL,
  maintitle = "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation",
  legend.x = 0.08,
  legend.y = 0.25,
  check = FALSE,
)
```

#### **Arguments**

outcomevariable

a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

hte\_match 25

the minimum number of observations in each leaf. The default is set as 20. minsize crossvalidation number of cross validations. The default is set as 20. data a data frame containing the variables in the model. treatment\_indicator a character representing the column name of the treatment indicator. a character representing the column name of the propensity score. ps\_indicator a character representing name of a column that stores linearized propensity ps\_linear a vector of column names of all covariates (linear terms and propensity score). covariates a logical value indicating whether we expect the treatment effect to be negative. negative The default is set as FALSE. drawplot a logical value indicating whether to plot the model as part of the output. The default is set as TRUE. con.num a number indicating the number of units from control groups to be used in matching. varlabel a named vector containing variable labels. maintitle a character string indicating the main title displayed when plotting the tree and results. The default is set as "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation". legend.x, legend.y x and y coordinate to position the legend. The default is set as (0.08, 0.25).

check if TRUE, generates 100 trees and outputs most common tree structures and their

frequency

... further arguments passed to or from other methods.

#### Value

predicted treatment effect and the associated tree

#### **Examples**

```
library(rpart)
library(htetree)
hte_match(outcomevariable="outcome",
data=data.frame("x1"=c(0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1),"x2"=c(3, 2, 1, 5, 7, 1),
"treatment"=c(0,0,0,1,1,1), "prop_score"=c(0.4, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.6, 0.7),
"outcome"=c(1, 2, 2, 1, 4, 4)), treatment_indicator = "treatment",
ps_indicator = "prop_score", covariates = c("x1","x2"))
```

26 hte\_plot

hte\_plot

Visualize the Estimated Results

#### **Description**

The function hte\_plot takes a model created by causal tree, as well as the adjusted version, and plots the distribution of the outcome variable in treated and control groups in each leaf of the tree. This visualization aims to show how the predicted treatment effect changes with each split in the tree.

### Usage

```
hte_plot(
  model,
  data,
  treatment_indicator = NULL,
  outcomevariable,
  propensity_score,
  plot.title = "Visualization of the Tree"
)
```

# **Arguments**

#### Value

no return value

hte\_plot\_line 27

hte\_plot\_line

Visualize the Estimated Results

#### **Description**

The function hte\_plot\_line takes a model created by causal tree, as well as the adjusted version, and plots the different least squares models used to estimate heterogeneous treatment effects(HTE) at each node. At each node, this visualization aims to show how the estimated treatment effect differs when using ordinary least squares and weighted least squares methods. The weighted least squares method in this package uses inverse propensity scores as weights, in order to reduce bias due to confounding variables.

#### Usage

```
hte_plot_line(
  model,
  data,
  treatment_indicator = NULL,
  outcomevariable,
  propensity_score,
  plot.title = "Visualization of the Tree",
  gamma = 0,
  lambda = 0,
  ...
)
```

# **Arguments**

#### Value

No return value, used for plotting the estimated results with lines.

importance

Caclulate variable importance

# Description

Each primary split is credited with the value of splits\$improve Each surrogate split gets split\$adj times the primary split's value

#### Usage

```
importance(fit)
```

#### **Arguments**

fit

a fitted causalTree object.

#### Value

same as the importance function in rpart.

init.causalForest

Causal Effect Regression and Estimation Forests (Tree Ensembles)

# Description

Build a random causal forest by fitting a user selected number of causalTree models to get an ensemble of rpart objects.

### Usage

```
init.causalForest(
  formula,
  data,
  treatment,
  weights = FALSE,
  cost = FALSE,
  num.trees,
  ncov_sample
)

## $3 method for class 'causalForest'
predict(object, newdata, predict.all = FALSE, type = "vector", ...)

causalForest(
  formula,
  data,
```

```
treatment,
  na.action = na.causalTree,
  split.Rule = "CT",
  double.Sample = TRUE,
  split.Honest = TRUE,
  split.Bucket = FALSE,
  bucketNum = 5,
  bucketMax = 100,
  cv.option = "CT"
  cv.Honest = TRUE,
 minsize = 2L,
  propensity,
  control,
  split.alpha = 0.5,
  cv.alpha = 0.5,
  sample.size.total = floor(nrow(data)/10),
  sample.size.train.frac = 0.5,
 mtry = ceiling(ncol(data)/3),
  nodesize = 1,
  num.trees = nrow(data),
  cost = FALSE,
 weights = FALSE,
 ncolx,
  ncov_sample
)
```

# **Arguments**

formula a formula, with a response and features but no interaction terms. If this a a data

frome, that is taken as the model frame (see model.frame).

data an optional data frame that includes the variables named in the formula.

treatment a vector that indicates the treatment status of each observation. 1 represents

treated and 0 represents control. Only binary treatment supported in this version.

weights optional case weights.

cost a vector of non-negative costs, one for each variable in the model. Defaults to

one for all variables. These are scalings to be applied when considering splits, so the improvement on splitting on a variable is divided by its cost in deciding

which split to choose.

num. trees Number of trees to be built in the causal forest

ncov\_sample Number of covariates randomly sampled to build each tree in the forest

object a causalTree object newdata new data to predict

predict.all If TRUE, return predicted individual effect for each observations. Otherwise,

return the average effect.

type the type of returned object

arguments to rpart. control may also be specified in the call to causalForest. . . . They are checked against the list of valid arguments. The parameter minsize is implemented differently in causalTree than in rpart; we require a minimum of minsize treated observations and a minimum of minsize control observations in each leaf. na.action the default action deletes all observations for which y is missing, but keeps those in which one or more predictors are missing. causalTree splitting options, one of "TOT", "CT", "fit", "tstats", four splitsplit.Rule ting rules in causalTree. Note that the "tstats" alternative does not have an associated cross-validation method cv.option; see Athey and Imbens (2016) for a discussion. Note further that split. Rule and cv. option can mix and match. double.Sample boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, if set to True, causalForest will build honest split.Honest boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, used to decide the splitting rule of the trees. split.Bucket boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, used to specify whether to apply the discrete method in splitting the tree. If set as TRUE, in splitting a node, the observations in a leaf will be be partitioned into buckets, with each bucket containing bucketNum treated and bucketNum control units, and where observations are ordered prior to partitioning. Splitting will take place by bucket. number of observations in each bucket when set split.Bucket = TRUE. HowbucketNum ever, the code will override this choice in order to guarantee that there are at least minsize and at most bucketMax buckets. bucketMax Option to choose maximum number of buckets to use in splitting when set split.Bucket = TRUE, bucketNum can change by choice of bucketMax. cross validation options, one of "TOT", "matching", "CT", "fit", four cross cv.option validation methods in causalTree. There is no cv.option for the split.Rule "tstats"; see Athey and Imbens (2016) for discussion. cv.Honest boolean option, TRUE or FALSE, only used for cv. option as "CT" or "fit", to specify whether to apply honest risk evalation function in cross validation. If set TRUE, use honest risk function, otherwise use adaptive risk function in cross validation. If set FALSE, the user choice of cv. alpha will be set to 1. If set TRUE, cv. alpha will default to 0.5, but the user choice of cv. alpha will be respected. Note that honest cv estimates within-leaf variances and may perform better with larger leaf sizes and/or small number of cross-validation sets. minsize in order to split, each leaf must have at least minsize treated cases and minsize control cases. The default value is set as 2. propensity score used in "TOT" splitting and "TOT", honest "CT" cross validation propensity methods. The default value is the proportion of treated cases in all observations. In this implementation, the propensity score is a constant for the whole dataset. Unit-specific propensity scores are not supported; however, the user may use inverse propensity scores as case weights if desired. a list of options that control details of the rpart algorithm. See rpart.control. control split.alpha scale parameter between 0 and 1, used in splitting risk evaluation function for "CT". When split. Honest = FALSE, split.alpha will be set as 1. For split.Rule="tstats",

if split.Honest=TRUE, split.alpha is used in calculating the risk function, which determines the order of pruning in cross-validation.

cv.alpha

scale paramter between 0 and 1, used in cross validation risk evaluation function for "CT" and "fit". When cv. Honest = FALSE, cv. alpha will be set as 1.

sample.size.total

Sample size used to build each tree in the forest (sampled randomly with replacement).

sample.size.train.frac

Fraction of the sample size used for building each tree (training). For eexample, if the sample.size.total is 1000 and frac =0.5 then, 500 samples will be used to build the tree and the other 500 samples will be used the evaluate the tree.

mtry Number of data features used to build a tree (This variable is not used presently).

nodesize Minimum number of observations for treated and control cases in one leaf node

ncolx Total number of covariates

#### **Details**

CausalForest builds an ensemble of CausalTrees (See Athey and Imbens, *Recursive Partitioning for Heterogeneous Causal Effects* (2016)), by repeated random sampling of the data with replacement. Further, each tree is built using a randomly sampled subset of all available covariates. A causal forest object is a list of trees. To predict, call R's predict function with new test data and the causalForest object (estimated on the training data) obtained after calling the causalForest function. During the prediction phase, the average value over all tree predictions is returned as the final prediction by default. To return the predictions of each tree in the forest for each test observation, set the flag predict.all=TRUE CausalTree differs from rpart function from **rpart** package in splitting rules and cross validation methods. Please check Athey and Imbens, *Recursive Partitioning for Heterogeneous Causal Effects* (2016) and Stefan Wager and Susan Athey, *Estimation and Inference of Heterogeneous Treatment Effects using Random Forests* for more details.

#### Value

An object of class rpart. See rpart.object.

#### References

Breiman L., Friedman J. H., Olshen R. A., and Stone, C. J. (1984) *Classification and Regression Trees*. Wadsworth.

Athey, S and G Imbens (2016) Recursive Partitioning for Heterogeneous Causal Effects. http://arxiv.org/abs/1504.01132

Wager,S and Athey, S (2015) Estimation and Inference of Heterogeneous Treatment Effects using Random Forests http://arxiv.org/abs/1510.04342

#### See Also

causalTree honest.causalTree, rpart.control, rpart.object, summary.rpart, rpart.plot

32 makeplots

#### **Examples**

```
library(rpart)
library("htetree")
cf <- causalForest(y~x1+x2+x3+x4+x5+x6+x7+x8+x9+x10, data=simulation.1,
    treatment=simulation.1$treatment,
    split.Rule="CT", split.Honest=TRUE,
    split.Bucket=FALSE, bucketNum = 5,
    bucketMax = 100, cv.option="CT", cv.Honest=TRUE, minsize = 2L,
    split.alpha = 0.5, cv.alpha = 0.5,
    sample.size.total = floor(nrow(simulation.1) / 2),
    sample.size.train.frac = .5,
    mtry = ceiling(ncol(simulation.1)/3), nodesize = 3, num.trees= 5,
    ncolx=10,ncov_sample=3)

cfpredtest <- predict.causalForest(cf, newdata=simulation.1[1:100,],
    type="vector")</pre>
```

makeplots

Visualize Causal Tree and the Estimated Results

#### **Description**

An intermediate function used for plotting

#### Usage

```
makeplots(
  negative,
  opfit. = opfit,
  trainset,
  covariates,
  outcomevariable,
  data. = data,
  hte_effect_setup,
  varlabel,
  maintitle,
  legend.x = 0.8,
  legend.y = 0.25,
  ...
)
```

#### **Arguments**

negative a logical value indicating whether we expect the treatment effect to be negative.

The default is set as FALSE.

opfit. tree structure generated from causal tree algorithm.

trainset a data frame only containing the variables used in the model and missings values

are listwise deleted.

matchinleaves 33

a vector of column names of all covariates (linear terms and propensity score). covariates outcomevariable a character representing the column name of the outcome variable. a data frame containing the variables in the model. data. hte\_effect\_setup a empty list to store the adjusted treatment effect. varlabel a named vector containing variable labels. maintitle a character string indicating the main title displayed when plotting the tree and results. The default is set as "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation". legend.x, legend.y

x and y coordinate to position the legend. The default is set as (0.08, 0.25).

further arguments passed to or from other methods.

#### Value

A plot visualizing the tree and estimated treatment effect in each node.

matchinleaves NN Matching in Leaves

#### **Description**

This intermediate function is used to adjust the heterogeneous treatment effect estimated in each leaf with NN matching.

#### Usage

```
matchinleaves(
  trainset = match_data,
  covariates = covariates,
  outcomevariable = outcomevariable,
 hte_effect_setup = hte_effect_setup,
  treatment_indicator,
  con.num = 1,
)
```

#### **Arguments**

trainset a data frame only containing the variables used in the model and missings values

are listwise deleted.

covariates a vector of column names of all covariates (linear terms and propensity score).

outcomevariable

a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

34 model.frame.causalTree

```
hte_effect_setup
```

a empty list to store the adjusted treatment effect.

treatment\_indicator

a character representing the column name of the treatment indicator.

con.num

a number indicating the number of units from control groups to be used in

matching

... further arguments passed to or from other methods.

#### Value

A list for summarizing the results after matching.

```
model.frame.causalTree
```

*Intermediate function for* causalTree

#### **Description**

get model frame of causalTree, same as rpart

# Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'causalTree'
model.frame(formula, ...)
```

### **Arguments**

formula

a formula, with a response but no interaction terms. If this is a data frame, it is taken as the model frame (see model.frame).

. . .

arguments to rpart.control may also be specified in the call to causalTree. They are checked against the list of valid arguments. An example of a commonly set parameter would be xval, which sets the number of cross-validation samples. The parameter minsize is implemented differently in causalTree than in rpart; we require a minimum of minsize treated observations and a minimum of minsize control observations in each leaf.

Value

a model frame for causalTree.

na.causalTree 35

na.causalTree

Intermediate function for causalTree

#### **Description**

requirement when missing values are included in sample.

### Usage

```
na.causalTree(x)
```

#### **Arguments**

Х

covariates

#### Value

No return value, used for handling missing values when thy are included in sample.

plotOutcomes

Intermediate function for hte\_plot\_line

#### **Description**

Plots the different least squares models used to estimate heterogeneous treatment effects(HTE) at each node. At each node, this visualization aims to show how the estimated treatment effect differs when using ordinary least squares and weighted least squares methods. The weighted least squares method in this package uses inverse propensity scores as weights, in order to reduce bias due to confounding variables.

#### Usage

```
plotOutcomes(
   treatment,
   outcome,
   propscores,
   confInt = TRUE,
   colbyWt = FALSE,
   ylab = "",
   xlab = "",
   title = "",
   gamma = 0,
   lambda = 0,
   ...
)
```

36 runDynamic

#### Arguments

a character representing the column name for the treatment variable in the causal setup

outcome a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

propscores a character representing the column name of the propensity score.

confInt a logical value indicating whether adding the 95 confidence interval. The default is set as TRUE.

colbyWt a logical value indicating whether the points are are colored according to inverse

propensity scores. The default is set as FALSE.

xlab, ylab, title

Characters representing the name for x axis, y axis, and main title for each node.

gamma, lambda numbers indicating the bias level used in sensitivity analysis

... further arguments passed to or from other methods.

#### Value

A summary table after adjusting the estimates with inverse probability weighting (ipw).

runDynamic

Visualize Causal Tree and Treatment Effects via Shiny

#### **Description**

Visualize Causal Tree and Treatment Effects via Shiny

#### Usage

```
runDynamic(
  model,
  data,
  outcomevariable,
  treatment_indicator,
  propensity_score = ""
```

# **Arguments**

model a tree model constructed by hte\_causalTree, hte\_matchinleaves,or hte\_ipw.

data a data frame containing the variables in the model.

outcomevariable

a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

treatment\_indicator

a character representing the column name for the treatment variable in the causal

setup.

propensity\_score

a character representing the column name of the propensity score.

saveBCSS 37

#### Value

```
a Shiny page.
```

saveBCSS

Save Javascript Embedded in Shiny App

#### **Description**

Save Javascript Embedded in Shiny App

#### Usage

```
saveBCSS(filePath)
```

#### **Arguments**

filePath

a character string representing the path name to save the files temporarily.

#### Value

No return value. It is used to save necessary files temporarily to run Shiny App.

saveFiles

Save Necessary Files to Run Shiny App

# Description

This function is to save files necessary to run Shiny app to visualize causal tree and the estimated heterogeneous treatment effects in an interactive way.

#### Usage

```
saveFiles(
  model,
  data,
  outcomevariable,
  treatment_indicator,
  propensity_score = "",
  filePath = ""
)
```

38 saveGCSS

# Arguments

model a tree model constructed by hte\_causalTree, hte\_matchinleaves, or hte\_ipw.

data a data frame containing the variables in the model.

outcomevariable

a character representing the column name of the outcome variable.

treatment\_indicator

a character representing the column name for the treatment variable in the causal

setup.

propensity\_score

a character representing the column name of the propensity score.

filePath a character string representing the path name to save the files temporarily.

#### Value

No return value. It is used to save necessary files temporarily to run Shiny App.

saveGCSS

Save CSS File Embedded in Shiny App

#### **Description**

Save CSS File Embedded in Shiny App

# Usage

saveGCSS(filePath)

#### **Arguments**

filePath a character string representing the path name to save the files temporarily.

#### Value

No return value. It is used to save necessary files temporarily to run Shiny App.

saveInd 39

saveInd

Save HTML Index Embedded in Shiny App

#### **Description**

Save HTML Index Embedded in Shiny App

# Usage

```
saveInd(filePath)
```

# **Arguments**

filePath

a character string representing the path name to save the files temporarily.

#### Value

No return value. It is used to save necessary files temporarily to run Shiny App.

saveServ

Save Shiny Server Temporarily

# Description

Save Shiny Server Temporarily

#### Usage

```
saveServ(filePath)
```

# Arguments

filePath

a character string representing the path name to save the files temporarily.

### Value

No return value. It is used to save necessary files temporarily to run Shiny App.

40 simulation.1

saveUI

Save Shiny UI Temporarily

#### **Description**

Save Shiny UI Temporarily

# Usage

```
saveUI(filePath)
```

#### **Arguments**

filePath

a character string representing the path name to save the files temporarily.

#### Value

No return value. It is used to save necessary files temporarily to run Shiny App.

simulation.1

A Simulated Dataset

### **Description**

A simulated dataset inherited from causalTree package

#### Usage

```
simulation.1
```

#### **Format**

```
## 'simulation.1' A data frame with 500 observations on the following 12 variables.
```

- x1 a numeric vector
- x2 a numeric vector
- x3 a numeric vector
- x4 a numeric vector
- x5 a numeric vector
- x6 a numeric vector
- x7 a numeric vector
- x8 a numeric vector
- x9 a numeric vector
- x10 a numeric vector
- y a numeric vector

treatment a numeric vector

# **Index**

* datasets	model.frame.causalTree, 34
simulation.1,40	model.offset, 19
bundScript, 2	na.causalTree, 35
<pre>causalForest(init.causalForest), 28 causalTree, 3, 15, 31</pre>	offset, 19
causalTree.branch, 6	plotOutcomes, 35
causalTree.control, 7	<pre>predict.causalForest</pre>
causalTree.matrix, 8	(init.causalForest), 28
causalTreecallback, 8	
causalTreeco, 9	rpart, <i>34</i>
clearTemp, 9	rpart.control, 5, 6, 8, 15, 18, 19, 30, 31, 34
• •	rpart.object, 5, 6, 15, 16, 31
est.causalTree, 10	rpart.plot, 6, 15, 31
estimate.causalTree, 10, 15	runDynamic, 36
	saveBCSS, 37
formatg, 11	saveFiles, 37
formula, 4, 13, 18, 29, 34	saveGCSS, 38
matDafaultDath 11	saveInd, 39
getDefaultPath, 11	saveServ, 39
getDensities, 12	saveUI, 40
honest.causalTree, 6, 12, 31	simulation.1, 40
honest.est.causalTree, 16	summary.rpart, 6, 15, 31
honest.est.rparttree, 17	34mmar y . 1 par c, 0, 13, 31
honest.rparttree, 17	
hte_causalTree, 20	
hte_forest, 21	
hte_ipw, 22	
hte_match, 24	
hte_plot, 26	
hte_plot_line, 27	
htetree.anova, 19	
importance, 28	
init.causalForest, 28	
makeplots, 32	
matchinleaves, 33	
model.frame, 4, 13, 18, 29, 34	
model. 11 ame, 7, 13, 10, 27, 37	